June 1994

Deaf Life

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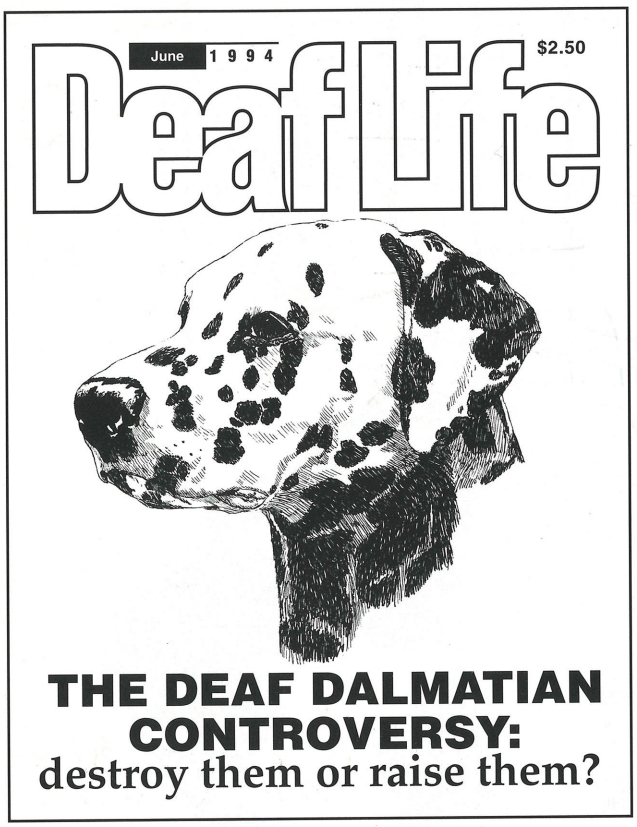
THE DEAF DALMATIAN CONTROVERSY:

destroy them or raise them?

VOLUME VI, NUMBER 12 JUNE 1994



COVER

DESIGN BY MATTHEW S. MOORE
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THE DALMATIAN IS A BREED whose popularity is booming. And Dalmatians have a relatively high incidence of congenital deafness—as many as 30% of all Dalmatian puppies are born deaf in one or both ears. Our cover story focuses on the controversy surrounding deaf Dalmatians. The Dalmatian Club of America, which represents 1,200 breeders, owners, and experts, steadfastly maintains that *all* deaf pups should be humanely destroyed; there are numerous risks, even dangers, involved in keeping a deaf dog.

On the other hand, Caroline Crosby, a hearing woman with close ties to the Deaf community, believes in rescuing deaf Dalmatian puppies, training them to respond to signed commands, and placing them in "proper" homes. She claims that she's had no failures as yet.

Who's "right"? *Is* there a "right" side? We invite our readers to respond. 10

Publisher's Note

First of all, I'd like to offer my deepest apologies for the extreme lateness of this issue. During the first two weeks of May, my company relocated to larger quarters, and this caused a tremendous disruption in our schedule. We were also forced to change our TTY and fax numbers. (See "It's our move," the final item in "Bits & Pieces," at the end of "News Briefs.") The disruption (I hope!) is temporary, and the move will enable us to handle magazine production, subscriptions, and book orders more efficiently. It will take time to get everything settled and reorganized. My particular apologies to readers who haven't been able to get through via TTY or fax, and whose inquiries and complaints haven't yet been acted on.

This month's cover story is our second one to focus on deaf animals. Our February 1992 cover story focused on deaf cats. This one focuses on deaf Dalmatians and the controversy surrounding them: should they be destroyed as soon as they're known to be deaf, or should they be trained to respond to visual commands and placed with families who use sign language?

Deaf cats have been destroyed because they're deaf, but with Dalmatians, the issue is considerably more complex. For one thing, there's evidence that at least some deaf dogs have brain abnormalities. Owning a deaf cat is quite different from owning a deaf dog, particularly an energetic breed like the Dalmatian. I want our deaf readers to be aware that the controversy exists. It's a hot issue in the animal-club world. Your views are welcome. (See "Faxview.")

Matthew S. Moore

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. . . A FEW MORE WORDS

WRONGS & RIGHTS

■ Evelio "Victor" Torres, a Deaf inmate at California Men's Colony in the San Luis Obispo prison (California), writes about the long-standing denial of the most basic rights to the Deaf inmates there—and what he and others have been doing about it. **26**

READERS' VIEWPOINT

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SCANT IMPROVEMENT—YET

■ In our May issue, we asked our deaf readers if they felt that 9-1-1/emergency access had improved in the past 5 years. Some 89% of our 125 respondents said no. One reader tells how his house burned down while he tried vainly to connect with 9-1-1. His next-door neighbor called and finally got a response—but he lost his house. Two responses from Michigan and Massachusetts detail some of the advances that are being made. We *are* making progress—at least in *some* communities and states. (We will continue to monitor the implementation of equal 9-1-1 access—we've still got a long way to go.) **28**

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Deaf Life

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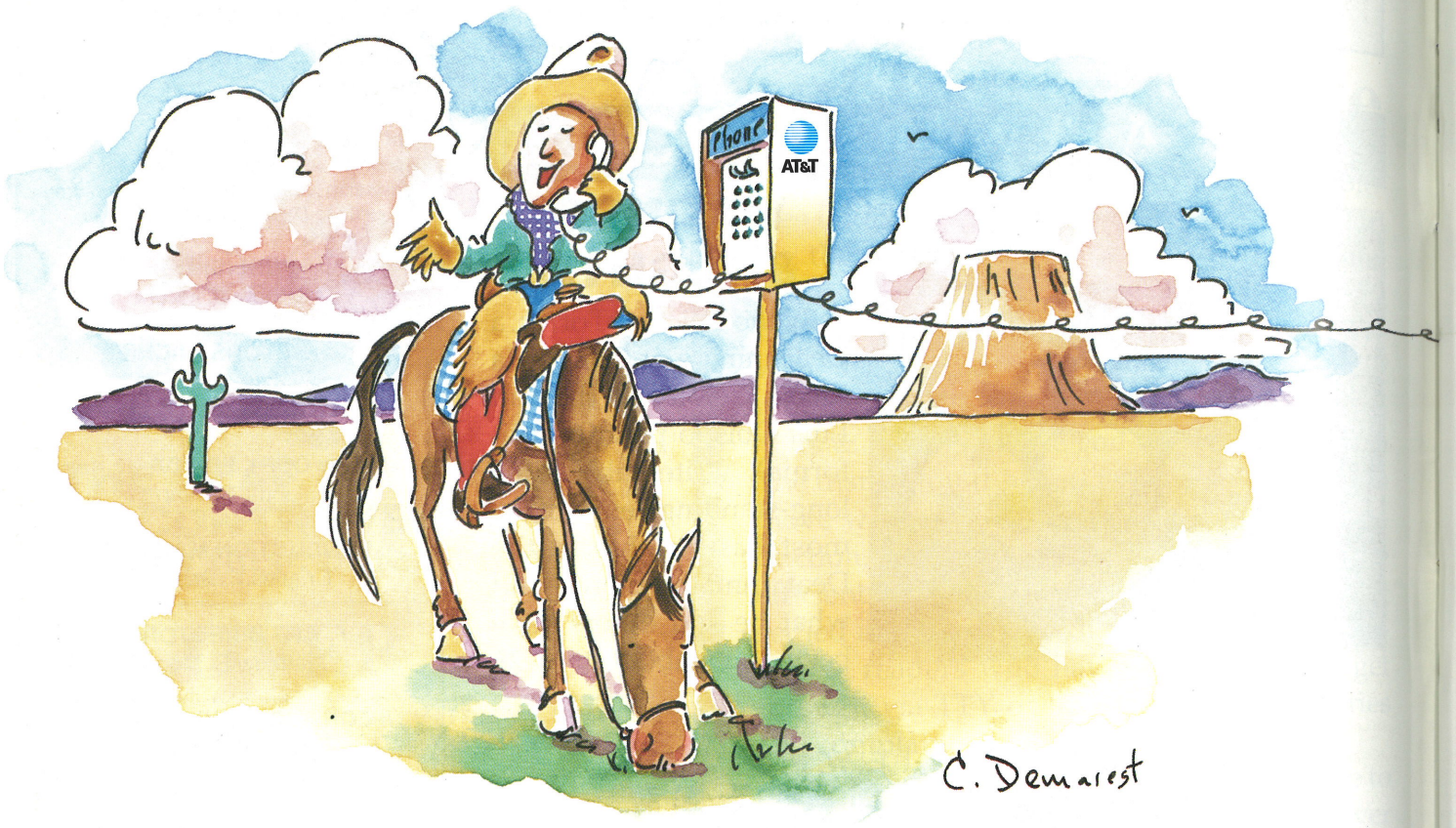

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LETTERS

The walls of Walt Disney World

February 23, 1994

Upon my family's return from Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, I contacted WDW Management regarding lack of accessibility for deaf consumers. I was advised to send a letter to WDW Guest Letters [see below]. I also sent a copy to Michael Eisner, CEO of Walt Disney Company in California [and Judson Green, President of Walt Disney Attractions].

I did request a response. However, I have not received any kind of communication. Perhaps if you published this letter, the national attention might encourage other deaf consumers to express their frustration to WDW. This may lead to a positive action taken on the part of the Walt Disney Company.

December 30, 1993

GUEST LETTERS
c/o Walt Disney World
P.O. Box 10,000
Lake Buena Vista, Florida 32830-1000

Management,

Please take ten minutes from your schedule to read this letter a few times. It is with great disappointment that [I saw for myself how] the unique Walt Disney World, through lack of initiative, promotes discrimination.

Imagine you cannot hear. What would four days at Disney World be like? All the marvelous educational programs and films would be a mystery. "What is the narrator saying? Why are the people around laughing? Looking surprised? Smiling?" While Disney World is known for its tremendous entertainment, much of it is communicated by spoken language. To deaf people, relying on visual language, all of that is lost. Yet they are paying customers.

My wife [Brenda Liebman Aron] is an educated individual. She has her B.S. in English, M.A. in American Sign Language/ Deaf Culture, and is pursuing her Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction. She holds a prestigious position in North Carolina. Yet, as a Deaf person, much of our four days (1 at Magic Kingdom, 2 at Epcot and 1 at MGM) was a mystery [to her]. If you think I am exaggerating, find away to block off any sound to your ears, and go from park to park. Only on one occasion during our entire four-day stay at WDW, did a staff person communicate with my wife. The staff person was able to sign "bathroom." We spent one thousand dollars for a four-day visit, rented a trailer home at Ft. Wilderness, and my wife had only one word of communication.

With the recent enactment of the **Americans with Disabilities Act**, Federal Legislation, there is now an expectation that people with disabilities will have **equal access** to the public arena—education, health, transportation, entertainment, government, employment, and communication. For the 20 million Americans who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, TDDs, captioned television and films, Sign Language Interpreters are just a few ways to provide equal access. ADA is very clear that whoever provides the commodity, also provides the method of access. 54% of Americans are individuals with disabilities. This is a significant percentage of our population.

While the hotel televisions at WDW do include the technology for Closed Captioning, there is much more that needs to be done. There are television monitors in your three parks that need captioning. There are movies at the parks that need to be captioned. There are events that could easily be interpreted, upon request. Sign Language Interpreters could be hired and called upon when needed to interpret. Signs need to be posted

LETTERS

identifying locations of TDDs. These are just a few ideas. With the sophisticated technology that WDW so proudly boasts of, and the tremendous revenue generated from all three parks, it is shameful that you continue to promote this form of discrimination!

During the four days, the only way [for my wife] to survive was for me to serve as [her] full-time Interpreter. A Qualified Interpreter earns approximately $40 per hour. I interpreted approximately 8 hours per day. I calculate that I provided a service worth $1,200. In addition, when a person serves as an Interpreter, it is very difficult to appreciate what is being said. So as I interpreted, I could not enjoy the specific activities. [We both paid the full admission price!]

It is time for you to review the accessibility of Walt Disney World. I recommend you consult with a trained professional. In this unique situation, a professional who is deaf and has experience with ADA and issues related to Accessibility should be consulted.

I would greatly appreciate your response to my letter. Through employment at WDW of people from countries all over the world, there is a wonderful sense of Multiculturalism. You must be complimented for that. However, do not keep people who are deaf [invisible] as lesser individuals. As America enters the 21st Century, we cannot afford to deny equal access to anyone. W all have too much to gain or too much to lose!

With deep concern,

Leonard Aron
Raleigh, North Carolina

Editors' note: *Brenda Liebman Aron sent the WDW management a similar letter on January 18. It began, "As a Deaf person, I carefully read the Guidebook for Guests With Disabilities prior to our visit with my family. I checked and was delighted to discover that the WDW Fort Wilderness trailer has captioned TV. Little did I realize that is the extent of the accessibility for the Deaf at the famous Walt Disney World!" She closed it: "A disappointed visitor."*

Let prospective Deaf visitors beware.

Streamlining health-care reform

I would like to make a proposal to members of Congress acting on the Health Care Reform Act that they establish a process to meet a significant need, which affects more than 27 million American citizens. There is an unmet need to simplify procedures to secure and pay for sign-language and other interpreter services for consumers who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, speak a foreign language, or have other communication disorders.

This system is *not* an expensive proposition. Millions of dollars are already spent on special needs of the deaf/hard-of-hearing population annually. Since the cost is already absorbed by the medical-care industry, it would make sense to modify it to better serve the special-needs population. It would also meet the legal requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act with minimal hardship. Doctors around the country have refused service to deaf patients, citing "undue hardship" for interpreter costs.

As it stands now, there are various sources of funds to pay for those special needs. Currently, we face a cumbersome process that takes a lot of time and energy spent on searching for funds to pay for this vital service. It is also proposed that a single source of these designated funds be set up only for interpreter services. Perhaps a portion of insurance premiums (or a tax) can be set aside for this system. This system would pool all resources together and make efficient use of these monies. For example, if a hospital has three deaf patients, it could use

LETTERS

one or two interpreters among the three patients instead of requesting and paying for three interpreters.

This system would be incorporated into the proposed National Health Security card. In addition to pertinent information such as the cardholder's medical history, this card will also denote special needs for interpreters and assistive devices (TTYs, caption decoders, hearing aids), and whatever else may be necessary. This data would appear on the computer, and it would help avoid waste of time (and health complications) arising from miscommunication. It would enable these people to request and receive adequate medical attention and care that they need. Meanwhile, the deaf consumers will have better opportunities to educate themselves about the availability of medical health.

John L. Pitts, Jr.
Washington, D.C.

"Defaming Deaf Art"

(To:) Susan Cergol
Editor, **NTID Focus** Magazine
National Technical Institute for the Deaf

Dear Ms. Cergol,

This letter is in response to the review [of **Chuck Baird, 35 Plates**] that was published in the Winter/Spring [1994] issue of **NTID Focus** Magazine in the "Words on Books" column (p. 32). We had intended to submit a rebuttal to Mr. [Jack] Slutzky's review, until I learned from my assistant that such an opportunity does not exist.

Poor judgment was exhibited in your printing the book review as it is written. I am fully aware that when a publisher comes out with a new book, it will be put under the scrutiny of the public eye and many professional book reviewers. I have no problem whatsoever in receiving book reviews, good or bad. That is absolutely part of the territory in publishing. Another of our publications was reviewed by your magazine in the past, and although the review was not a favorable one, it was a constructive criticism that we could accept.

It appears, however, that Mr. Slutzky was permitted an open forum to launch a personal attack, bordering on slander, under the guise of a "book review." He has used your magazine as his medium to vent his pathetic frustrations. The review contained many politically incorrect statements and misinterpretations.

I am greatly surprised that an institution such as NTID would agree to print a review that so blatantly defames Deaf Art. Deaf Art is a voice, a voice of the oppressed and it is released through different mediums—one of which is art. Chuck Baird is an extremely talented artist who has chosen to express his voice through this medium, and that is the goal of this book. Mr. Slutzky apparently misses this point and instead criticizes the very voice Deaf Art uses to show the world that there has been excessive criticism and oppression towards Deaf people. In fact, Slutzky only provides further proof to the existence of that oppression.

I am sorry the Mr. Slutzky does not like the book as much as our readers do.

Joe W. Dannis
President, DawnSignPress
San Diego, California

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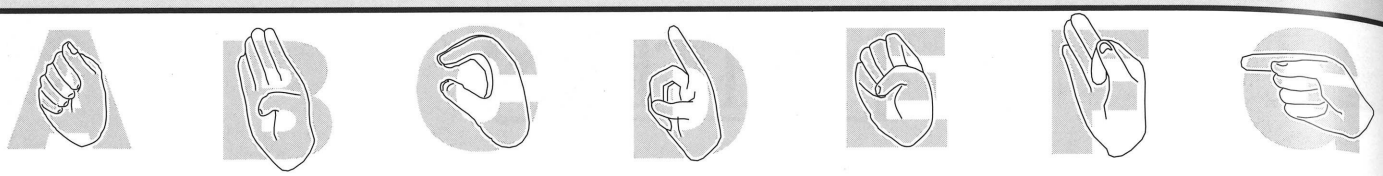

FOR HEARING PEOPLE ONLY™

Why do some deaf people want or need hearing dogs?

—Asked by **Elizabeth A. Brietkrietz**, Cottage Grove, Minnesota

Dogs provide companionship, and trained dogs provide an additional measure of reassurance. Deaf people are able to lead more independent lives—freed from depending on electronic signaling devices.

The most familiar companion dogs are "seeing-eye" or "guide dogs for the blind," used primarily in public settings, where traffic and obstacles pose particular hazards to blind people. "Hearing-ear" or "hearing" dogs (who wear distinctive safety-orange harnesses in public) are usually "on duty" only at home. (Home is where most of *our* hazards are.) They are trained to respond to specific sounds, such as a doorbell, telephone, crying baby, smoke alarm, or intruder, alerting the owners by pawing or nuzzling them. Some owners use voiced commands; some visual/ASL commands exclusively.

Sleeping humans can't smell smoke. A dog's sense of smell is much more acute than ours. There's always a possibility that a smoke alarm will fail—or that sleepers will be lying with their eyes shielded from a strobe.

Not all deaf people who have dogs have "hearing" dogs. Some are just ordinary pets (which can, on occasion, do a good job of alerting their owners in an emergency). Some owners train their own dogs. Others go through the considerable expense of obtaining a certified hearing dog. How effective the dog is depends on the dog and how well it's trained, as well as the owner's needs. (And whether the dog is treated as a pet or a worker.)

One professional trainer told us that she once placed a dog with a deaf couple who had a new baby. The dog was trained to alert the parents when the baby cried. Unfortunately, the dog was *too* effective—every whimper, burp, or sneeze, and the dog alerted the parents. After several days of continuous "false alarms," the frazzle-nerved parents called the trainer. She took back the dog and de-trained it. The parents installed an electronic "baby-cry" signaler and got some peace. They kept the dog as a pet. (Of course, not all dogs are as undiscriminating as this eager pooch was.)

Say "seeing-eye dog," and we visualize German Shepherds or Golden Retrievers—good hefty working-breed dogs. Hearing dogs don't have to be of any particular breed or size, al-

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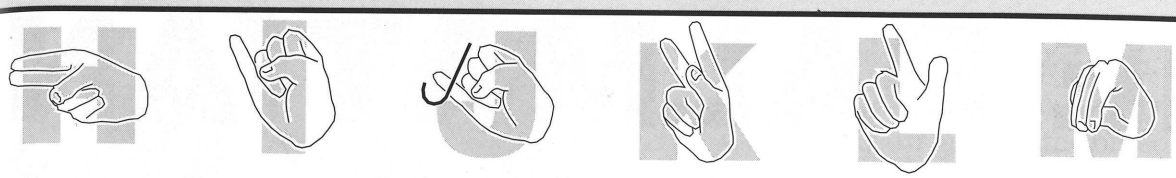

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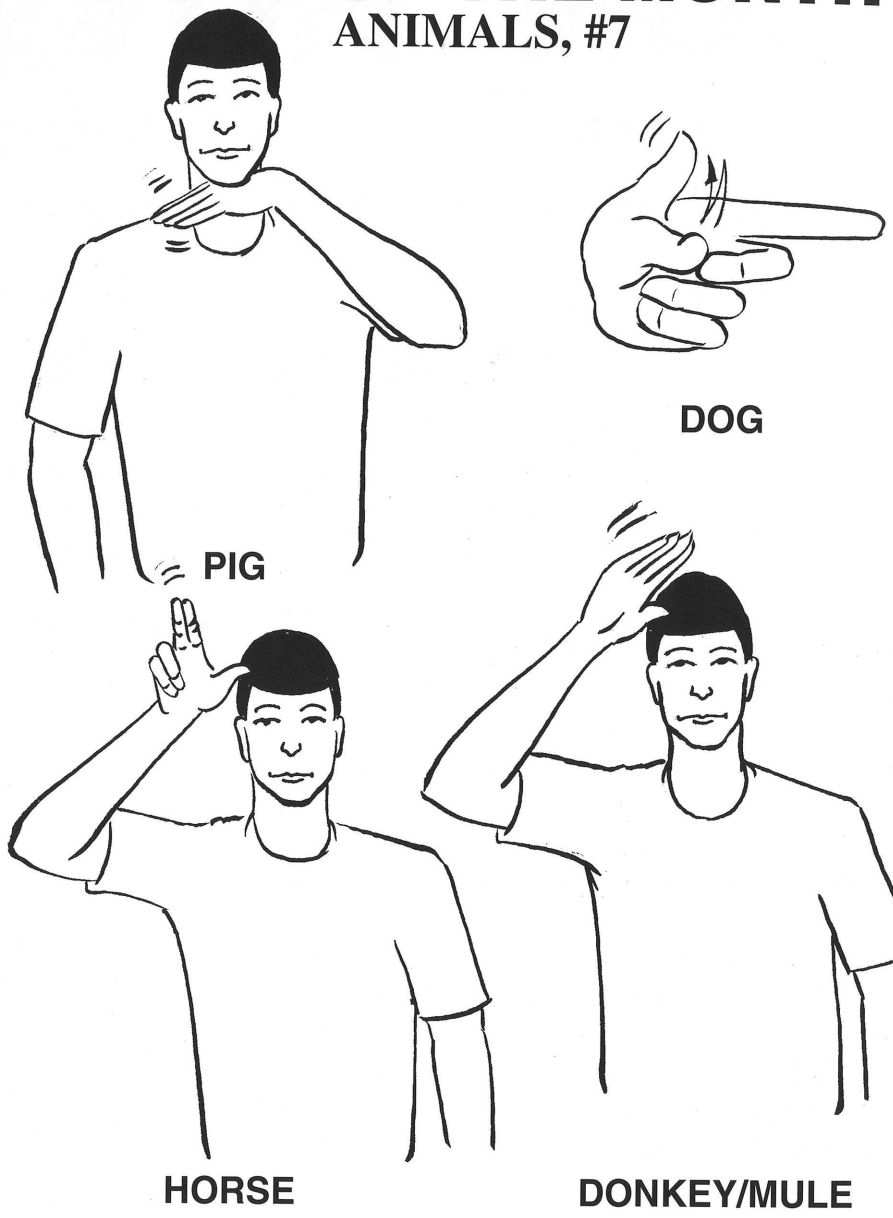
though some breeds work better than others. The main criteria are intelligence, trainability, and good temperament.

Seeing-eye dogs are usually trained from early puppyhood. Some deaf people prefer picking their pups out at the breeder's kennel and starting their training right away. But many excellent hearing dogs are adult mutts adopted from the local animal shelter, who might otherwise have been destroyed. A skilled trainer can pick out a promising candidate, put it through the training session (which lasts several months), and place it through an agency, working closely with the prospective owner.

Currently, owners of seeing-eye dogs get financial aid and tax breaks. Owners of hearing dogs don't. Many deaf people who'd like to adopt a hearing dog can't afford to. Seeing-eye-dog training and placement programs have been around for quite a while. Hearing-dog programs are a relatively recent innovation. Several of these non-profit agencies operate around the country to find, train and place hearing dogs, *and* raise funds to help defray the costs. The goal: that *all* deaf individuals or families who want or need a hearing dog should be able to have one.■

SIGNS OF THE MONTH

ANIMALS, #7



EDITORS' NOTE: If you have any questions about the correct formation of signs or facial expressions, ask a Deaf friend (i.e., a native ASL user) or a certified sign-language teacher.

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THE DALMATIAN CONTROVERSY

Approximately 12% of all Dalmatian puppies are born completely deaf; twice that number are deaf in one ear. Is it a fatal defect, or simply an additional challenge for dedicated trainers?

Old friends

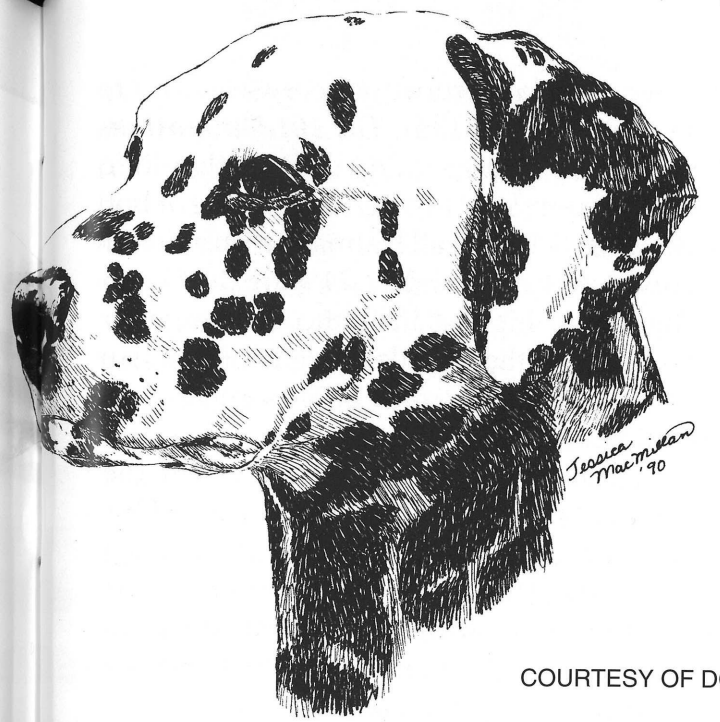
The Dalmatian has served as a sentinel, war dog, fire-department mascot, hunter, shepherd, and [circus] performer. It is best-known, however, as a coach or carriage dog, functioning as an escort and guard for horse-drawn vehicles. A sleek, symmetrically built, short-haired dog, the Dalmatian is characterized by its dark-spotted, white coat. It stands 19 to 23 inches (48 to 58.5 cm) and weighs 35 to 50 pounds (16 to 25 kg). In general, it is even-tempered and friendly. Among its nicknames are English coach dog, firehouse dog, and plum-pudding dog.—**Encyclopaedia Britannica**

Contrary to what some people may think, Dalmatians were *not* invented by Walt Disney. Actually, it's a very old breed. Its first recorded home is Dalmatia, on the eastern Adriatic coast of what was formerly Yugoslavia. (Whether the breed originated in Dalmatia is arguable. It most likely didn't. Ancient Egyptian tomb murals depict spotted dogs that could well be Dalmatians.) For centuries, though, it was known as the "coach dog"—it was the only breed that ran with stagecoaches, mail-coaches, and carriages.

This capability led to the Dalmatian's most familiar role—as firehouse mascot. Nineteenth-century fire engines were mounted on huge wheels and pulled by teams of horses. Each firehouse had its own stable. Dalmatians, who had a natural affinity[1] for horses, patrolled the stables and, it's said, kept the horses calm. After the alarm was sounded and the teams hitched up, the Dalmatians would run before the engine, clearing a path in the crowded street. When the horse-drawn engines were finally replaced by gasoline-powered trucks, the firehouse stables and the horses became a nostalgic memory, but the Dalmatian was retained as mascot. The popular image of the firehouse includes the shiny red fire truck, its metal trim and fittings gleaming—and the Dalmatian riding proudly in the front seat or running by its side.

During World War II, some firehouse mascots got back into action, at least briefly. There's a photo-feature in the March 30, 1942 issue of **LIFE** magazine titled "Dalmatians, traditional firehouse mascots, get war training in Boston," about the drilling of five Dalmatians belonging to the Boston Fire Department in wartime rescue work—"to carry messages and Red Cross supply kits, to guard property during and after air raids, and to locate wounded people, especially those buried under debris."

For a while, the Dalmatian's popularity declined. Dodie Smith's children's story, **One Hundred and One Dalmatians**, was published in 1956. That helped boost it. In 1961, Walt Disney Studios released an animated feature film based on Smith's book. ***101 Dalmatians*** was a smash hit. It tells the story of how Pongo, a London Dalmatian, finds his mate, Perdita, and helps to "arrange" a match between his owner, Roger, and Perdita's owner, Anita. (The tale is told from



COURTESY OF DCA

Pongo's viewpoint.) After Perdita has her first litter of 15 puppies, they're stolen by two thugs hired by Anita's old schoolmate, the wicked Cruella DeVil (one of Disney's most impressive villainesses), who intends to use their pelts to make a spotted coat. To this end, she has already acquired 84 other Dalmatian puppies. Pongo and Perdita enlist a citywide "support network" of the dogs, cats, horses, and cows to help them locate and rescue all the puppies. After the release of this now-classic animated film, the popularity of the breed skyrocketed. The re-release of ***101 Dalmatians*** on videocassette has sparked a second "Dalmatian boom." (There's even a theatrical version!)

The Dalmatian can be seen on vodka advertisements ("Bruno and the girls"—a bunch of "Dalmatian-spotted" white cats), a similar Portal Publications poster ("In a world full of copycats, be an original!"), FTD Florists, fashion, and pet-food ads. The Dal's popularity is definitely on the upswing.

The Dalmatian is only spotted breed recognized by the American Kennel Club. Its distinctive looks, intelligence, and cheerful, gentle temperament have gained it new popularity. Which can be a problem.

When a breed becomes *too* popular, its supporters feel dismay and dread. A boom in a particular breed's popularity means a corresponding boom in "backyard breeders" and "puppy mills" cashing in on that popularity—uncontrolled breeding done solely for the sake of monetary profit, without any thought to the quality of the results—which ends up hurting the breed. (This is the case with ultra-popular breeds such as the German Shepherd, Old English Sheepdog, and, most recently, the Rottweiler.) Reputable breeders are dedicated to improving the quality of the particular breeds they work with, producing dogs who will be outstanding examples of their breed, in temperament as well as looks. Thanks to these breeders, today's Dalmatians are considered superior to those of previous generations, in particular, the beauty of their spotting.

Dalmatians are born pure white (unless they're patched). Their distinctive spots appear within two to four weeks. Each dog, of course, has a unique pattern.[2]

Two major hereditary problems associated with the Dalmatian are its inability to metabolize uric acid in its liver (which makes it susceptible[3] to bladder stones), and deafness. The Dal's diet can be carefully controlled, but deafness—either unilateral (one ear) or bilateral (both ears)—is a more serious flaw. The incidence of deafness in Dalmatians is well known. But there is no general agreement as to what to do about the deaf puppies—euthanize[4] them, donate them to a research facility, or raise them?

"No Dalmatian bloodline is free from deafness," says Sharon Boyd, Recording Secretary of the Dalmatian Club of America, which represents 1,200 breeders and owners with decades of extensive experience. Their opinions should not be brushed aside lightly. "We LOVE this breed—all of them," says Boyd. But DCA's policy is clear: NO deaf pups should EVER be adopted or raised.

On the other hand, a few advocates have been rescuing deaf pups from certain death and training them to become obedient, happy pets. We here present several divergent views.

[1] **affinity**: liking, closeness.

[2] Dalmatians can have either black or liver-colored spots. "Conformation" means how well a dog conforms to the standard of the Breed. A show-quality Dalmatian with "good conformation" has spots about the size of a dime to a half-dollar which are distinct (not muddled together) and well-defined. Those with *patches* (large solid-colored areas, usually on the head) are adorable, but are disqualified from shows. According to author Tanya B. Ditto, some breeders

have destroyed patched pups outright. The luckier ones are sold as "pet-quality" dogs which must be neutered. These merely have a flaw in coloration; their personalities are, of course, not affected.

[3] **susceptible**: likely to develop a certain condition.

[4] "Euthanizing," "putting a dog down," and "putting a dog to sleep" mean the same thing: having the dog put to death in a humane manner by a veterinarian. A barbiturate (Beuthanasia D-Special) is injected into a vein. The dog immediately loses consciousness, and its heartbeat stops within a minute. Sharon Boyd says, "It is literally like just going to sleep, hence the correlation." After the slight prick of the injection, the dog feels nothing. It's certainly a far more compassionate method than clubbing, shooting, stabbing, poisoning, starving, or drowning.

Deaf Dalmatians: the pros and the cons

David Kay, Former Education Director, Tree House Animal Foundation, Chicago, Illinois

Background

Deafness is a very rare trait in dogs. Out of every 10,000 dogs seen at veterinary teaching hospitals, only between three and seven are completely deaf. Dogs depend heavily on their hearing—much more than humans or our most popular pets, cats.

Training a deaf dog is the biggest problem. Most dogs can be trained to respond to hand signals or signs. But dog trainers have the most success when the dog is taught voice commands and hand signals at the same time. The trainer gradually stops using voice and the dog responds only to the gestures. Of course, this method only works if the dog can hear!

Even though deafness is rare in the general dog population, certain breeds of dogs are more likely to be deaf. At least 45 breeds are reported to have some kind of congenital (inherited) deafness, including popular breeds like Cocker Spaniels, German Shepherds, Toy Poodles, and Collies (see box on page 14).

In most of these dogs, particular "speckled" color patterns are linked to a higher rate of deafness. Especially when these patterns contain a lot of white hair, the incidence of deafness is significantly higher (as with blue-eyed white cats and Waardenburg's syndrome in humans).[5]

In the last few years, Dalmatians have become extremely popular, probably because of the re-release of the Disney film, ***The 101 Dalmatians***. Dalmatians are also speckled dogs with a lot of white background—and often deaf in one or both ears. Between 8-12% of all Dalmatian puppies are born completely deaf, and 22-24% are deaf in one ear. This is the highest incidence of congenital deafness among the popular breeds of dog, surpassed only by a few rare breeds such as the Catahoula Leopard Dog.

Deaf Dalmatians lose their hearing before they are four weeks old.[5] The deafness is caused by a degeneration in the cochlea, similar to that in blue-eyed white cats[6] and humans with Waardenburg's syndrome.[7] Several other animals show this kind of hair-related cochlear deafness, including mice and cows.

The loss of pigment (color) in the white hair is probably related to the weakness in the small hairs inside the cochlea (organ of Corti). The *stria vascularis* provides blood to the cochlea. Degeneration in these blood vessels may also lead to the destruction of the small hairs in the organ of Corti.

Why are these hairs so important? Sound vibrates the eardrum, which moves the structures of the inner ear. The small hairs in the organ of Corti trigger nerve signals to the brain. If the hairs are not there (or don't work right), the animal cannot hear.

Like deaf humans, deaf dogs are very sensitive to vibrations. John Benoit, a Dalmatian breeder and president of the Chicagoland Dalmatian Club, says he can often tell which Dalmatian puppies are deaf in both ears by stamping his foot while the pups are asleep. Hearing dogs continue to sleep. Deaf dogs snap their heads up and begin looking for the source of the vibrations. "Likewise," John continues, "if I clap my hands above the sleeping litter, all the hearing dogs wake up, and the deaf puppies keep on sleeping."

California Dalmatian breeder Eva Berg of Moraga, California, with 27 years of experience in the field, says deaf puppies tend to be the "loners" in the litter, and may be ignored by their littermates. She also notices deaf puppies to be more vocal, even having a kind of "deaf voice." "They don't just whine," she observes. "They *scream*."

Dalmatians are one of the older breeds of dogs, known and loved by their owners for well over

100 years. Deafness in Dalmatians has also been known for at least 100 years. Yet, despite a century of research, there is no clear way to predict which dogs will be deaf and which will not.

Eva Berg, who also chairs the Research Committee for the 1,200-member Dalmatian breeders' association, the Dalmatian Club of America (DCA), has a male hearing Dalmatian named "Ditto." Ditto has one of the lowest rates of fathering deaf puppies in the country. He was once mated with a deaf female Dalmatian, who produced eight puppies—all hearing. Another time, he was mated to a hearing female Dalmatian. The result was one totally deaf puppy and four unilaterally-deaf (in one ear only) puppies out of a litter of eight.

"So far, we're having a hard time getting a handle on this," reports Dr. George Strain of Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Strain does research on deafness in Dalmatians and calls it "the worst genetic defect I know of." That doesn't mean he objects to deafness, but rather that it affects such a high percentage of dogs and that it does not follow a simple genetic pattern of inheritance.

If deafness in Dalmatians were the result of a single recessive or "weak" gene, mating two deaf dogs should produce nothing but deaf puppies. But Dr. Strain has tried this and produced hearing puppies. If the deafness were caused by a single dominant or "strong" gene, many more Dalmatians would be deaf.

Breeding two unilaterally deaf dogs does seem to produce a higher rate of totally and unilaterally deaf puppies. It is important, then, to be sure that pups suspected of being deaf in one ear really are. A sophisticated test called the *brainstem auditory evoked response* (BAER) test can detect deafness in dogs of any age.

Tiny electrodes are placed in front of each ear, on top of the dog's head, and above and between its eyes. A series of "click" sounds are directed to each of the dog's ears through earphones, and a special computer collects the response of the dog's nervous system.

"Any dog will bite if it's startled out of sleep, whether it's deaf or not."
—
Caroline Crosby

"Since a deaf dog can't hear a person approaching, it will be surprised or frightened more often—and more apt to bite and inflict injury."
—
David Kay

The puzzle of deaf Dalmatians has prompted some very "high-tech" research. A project currently underway at the University of Michigan is mapping all the genes of Dalmatians to try and find those involved with deafness. The results could shed new light on inherited deafness in other animals—including people.[8]

The Controversy

"Deaf pups should always be humanely destroyed by a veterinarian."—Notice on "Dalmatian Deafness" to the Board of Governors, Dalmatian Club of America

"The leading cause of bites by deaf Dalmatians is poor placement of the dogs in homes."—Caroline Crosby, trainer of deaf Dalmatians

Since the re-release of the Disney movie ***101 Dalmatians***, Dalmatians have become among the most popular breeds of dog in the United States. Although thousands of families were enchanted by the adorable spotted Dalmatian puppies, there are several problems with "Dals" that most potential owners don't know.

"Dals are an up-spirited breed," says Eva Berg. "They have a lot of energy, and need the right home." They also have a tendency to a few health problems, and about 30% are born deaf in one or both ears.

Why does the Dalmatian Club of America (DCA) recommend that all Dalmatian puppies born deaf in both ears be destroyed? Because they feel that totally-deaf dogs can pose a danger to themselves and their owners. According to many Dalmatian breeders, a deaf dog is more likely to bite when startled out of sleep or when someone approaches from behind. Since the dog can't hear a person

approaching, it will be surprised or frightened more often. A frightened or startled dog will bite—and often cause serious injury.

What's more, breeders say, a deaf Dalmatian can't respond to voice commands if it is running toward the street or another dangerous place. Unable to hear a horn or the squeal of tires, a deaf dog is more likely to be struck and killed by a car or truck.

"I strongly disagree," says Caroline Crosby, a speech pathologist in New Mexico who trains deaf Dalmatians with sign language. "The leading cause of bites by deaf Dalmatians is poor placement of the dogs in homes."

Crosby's Santa Fe School for Deaf Dalmatians has trained 10 dogs in the last year, finding them good homes. Families adopting deaf dogs from Crosby must have significant experience in sign language and deafness, and go to training sessions on handling their deaf dog.

"Hearing people can be really stupid about deafness," says Crosby, who is hearing herself. "How many hearing people meet a person, find out he or she is deaf, and then raise their voice, as if talking louder will make them hearing?" She believes that ignorance is the main reason people worry about deaf Dalmatians. "Any dog will bite if it's startled out of sleep, whether it's deaf or not."

She admits, however, that getting the dog's attention outdoors from a distance is a serious concern. Indoors (or if the dog is close enough outdoors), stamping her foot will get the dog to look at her. As with deaf people, waving her hand or flashing a light works well, too. When outdoors at night, she signals her two deaf Dalmatians by turning a flashlight on and off.

However, Crosby and the DCA agree on one important point: deaf Dalmatians should not be compared directly to deaf people. She says: "It's like comparing apples and oranges."

"Dogs are dogs, and people are people," agrees Elaine Gewirtz, who has written about deafness in Dalmatians. "A dog can't reason or think like us—you just can't say a deaf dog is the same as a deaf person."

According to the American Kennel Club (AKC), 38,927 Dalmatians were registered in 1992. While this is by no means all of the Dalmatians born that year, it shows how popular the breed is today. It also provides a way of estimating how many totally-deaf Dalmatians are born each year: probably no fewer than 3,400. We know that not all deaf Dalmatians are destroyed, but even if it's only half, that still means at least 1,700 were killed in 1992 because they were deaf.

Breeders and the DCA argue strongly that most, if not all, of these dogs will end up being hit by cars, dying in other kinds of accidents, or having to be destroyed anyway after biting and seriously injuring someone. They also worry about people breeding deaf dogs for profit and spreading the

Dog Breeds with Tendency to Congenital Deafness

Akita
American Staffordshire Terrier
Australian Cattle Dog
Australian Shepherd
Beagle
Border Collie
Boston Terrier
Boxer
Bulldog
Bull Terrier
Catahoula Leopard Dog
Cocker Spaniel
Collie
Dalmatian
Dappled Dachshund
Doberman Pinscher
Dogo Argentino
English Bulldog
English Cocker Spaniel
English Setter
Foxhound
Fox Terrier
German Shepherd
Great Dane
Great Pyrenees
Ibizan Hound
Jack Russell Terrier
Kuvasz
Maltese
Miniature Poodle
mongrel
Norwegian Dunkerhound
Old English Sheepdog
Papillon
Pointer
Rhodesian Ridgeback
Rottweiler
Saint Bernard
Schnauzer
Scottish Terrier
Sealyham Terrier
Shetland Sheepdog
Shropshire Terrier
Toy Poodle
Walker American Foxhound
West Highland White Terrier

(After George M. Strain, Ph.D., "Congenital Deafness in Dogs and Cats," **Compendium on Continuing Education**, Vol. 13, No. 2, February 1991, p. 246.)

deafness genes even farther. The DCA is very interested in finding ways to eliminate genetic deafness in their breed—a goal that some deaf people dislike because it is too much like the "medical model" of human deafness.

Even Crosby—whose nonprofit School for Deaf Dalmatians is designed as a model for an alternative to the DCA's recommendations—admits that more deaf Dalmatians are born than there are proper homes in which to place them. But, she adds, if breed clubs followed her example, many more dogs could be saved—even if it isn't 100% of them.

Should deaf people own deaf dogs? Many Dalmatian breeders and the DCA say nobody should, whether deaf or hearing. Some breeders have gone out of their way to say that while they agree that no deaf Dalmatians should be placed in homes, it's a particularly bad idea for deaf people. They feel deaf people would benefit most from a dog that can hear, and that the problems of owning a deaf dog are an additional burden a deaf person doesn't need to have.

Crosby doesn't look for deaf people or families with deaf members to place her deaf Dalmatians, but she certainly doesn't avoid them, either. In fact, two of the dogs she trained already live in homes with deaf people. She agrees that owning a dog that hears can be a benefit for a deaf person, but she also believes there's no reason why being deaf should disqualify someone from having a deaf dog. For her, she says, the issue is how well potential owners understand deafness and dogs, not whether or not they can hear.

Dalmatian breeders and the DCA are concerned with producing the best possible dogs they can. In order to enter a purebred dog in a dog show, it must conform to strict rules about its size, weight, body shape, coat, color, behavior, and physical condition. Deafness is a "disqualifying flaw" for any purebred dog—it can never be entered in a dog show, never win any awards, and will never be bred in any championship bloodlines.

"Those who feel it is not humane to euthanize deaf puppies directly contribute to the misery and heartbreak caused by the many failed attempts to raise them."

—

Janice Boyanchek

Usually, a purebred dog that cannot be entered in a show is sold as a "pet-quality" dog. A responsible breeder signs a spay/neuter contract with the person who purchases a pet-quality dog, and the dog is "fixed" at the age of 6 months, before it can reproduce.

Deafness is not the only "disqualifying flaw" that results in dogs being destroyed. Dog owners have the legal right and power to have their dogs humanely destroyed by a veterinarian for any reason. Although not supported by the AKC, any of the breed associations, or the most reputable breeders, there are those breeders who destroy puppies with other disqualifying flaws. This is done mostly because the dogs can't be entered in shows, hired out for mating, or sold at the highest prices.

Reputable Dalmatian breeders are heartbroken about the destruction of deaf puppies, although most feel it is necessary—but not all. At least two well-known and well-respected Dalmatian breeders work very hard to find proper homes for as many of their deaf puppies as they can.[9]

Deaf and hearing people who have had deaf Dalmatians and other deaf dogs say that they can make wonderful pets. But having a deaf dog is much different from having a hearing one. Although Caroline Crosby finds homes for deaf Dalmatians, she does not work with people who want to get one because they feel sorry for it. It's part of understanding deafness, she says: "If you're saying, 'Pity the poor deaf dog,' you're not getting one for the right reasons."

But the DCA is very strong in its position. Dalmatian breeders say they've heard too many "horror stories" about deaf Dalmatians biting people, getting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

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hit by cars, or being abused by frustrated owners who can't train them. "All a deaf Dal has to look forward to is a short life of stress and discomfort and then a one-way trip to the veterinarian," says Eva Berg. "I have tears in my eyes when deaf puppies have to be put down." Until there's a better way to deal with genetic deafness in Dalmatians, she says, humanely destroying deaf puppies is the best choice.●

[5] Sharon Boyd explains that newborn Dals are not exactly blind and deaf, but that "their eyes and ears are sealed. Their eyes begin to open at 9 to 14 days and ears at 12 to 16 days. Hearing is functional as soon as the ear canal gets the slightest crack in the seal. We begin testing our puppies for hearing as soon as the eyes open, as we feel the ears are not long behind in the schedule. We usually know who hears and who doesn't definitely by 21 days of age; sometimes sooner."

[6] See "The Surprising World of the Deaf Cat," **DEAF LIFE**, February 1992.

[7] **Waardenburg's syndrome**: a form of hereditary deafness which ranges from mild to profound and which is associated with abnormalities in the folds of the eyes, different-colored eyes, and pigmentation (color) of the skin or hair. There are many variations; only a few people who carry this gene show all the features of the syndrome.

[8] Q.v. John A. Wilson, "Dalmatian Hearing Research Update," **The Spotter** (DCA's quarterly), Vol. 23, No. 2, Winter 1992-93. Researchers at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University, in conjunction with the AKC and Morris Animal Foundation, hope to isolate the gene or genes that cause Dalmatian deafness. "The studies will compare a human gene which causes hereditary deafness (the HUP-2 gene) with genes (DNA) from deaf Dals and from Dals that have produced few deaf offspring." Once that's accomplished, a simple blood test will determine which dogs are carrying the gene. "Once such a test is available, we should be able to eliminate the gene(s) which cause deafness with judicious breeding over a few generations."

[9] Sharon Boyd says, "ABSOLUTELY NO responsible (respected?) breeder does this. NO ONE. If these are DCA members they are in direct opposition to the Ethical Guidelines." David Kay replies that there are indeed DCA members who do this—in spite of the DCA guidelines.

Deaf Dalmatians: why euthanize?

Janice Boyanchek, Dalmatian Club of Greater St. Louis, Missouri

It is difficult to explain why the Dalmatian Club of America and all Dalmatian Breed Clubs insist that deaf puppies must NEVER be sold, placed, or given away, and most certainly should never be bred.

As a Spotsaver (Dalmatian Rescue)[10] volunteer, I have met a number of deaf Dalmatians and/or their owners who have had success in adapting to the special needs of deafness. If these were my only contacts with deaf Dals, I, too, would believe that a deaf Dal is a healthy Dal who simply cannot hear. I would believe that special training with hand signals, and keeping gates locked so my deaf Dal could be protected from traffic and other animals, would be enough to ensure a happy life.

However, as a Spotsaver volunteer, I have received far too many phone calls from people who have tried desperately to provide a loving home for a deaf Dal, with tragic results: biters.

Over and over again, I hear stories about deaf Dals totally out of control. (Did I tell you about the one who climbed up on top of the refrigerator and urinated?) Deafs so hyper they can't establish eye contact, deafs so easily startled they have bitten even beloved family members. And then there are the precious deaf puppies who yowl, whine, or scream when they're alone, or think they're alone because they can't SEE their owners. The heartbreaking result from well-meaning, caring people trying to raise deaf puppies is enormous, and, I believe, far outweighs the small number of successes.

Why, then, isn't a deaf Dal an otherwise healthy dog who simply cannot hear? Perhaps the answer lies in the study by Dr. Alexander De Lahunta of Cornell University, and a doctoral thesis by Dr. Margaret Ferrara, an Australian breeder of Dalmatians, as stated in the January 1991 [AKC] **Gazette** article by Elaine Waldorf Gewirtz, "Researching Deafness in Dalmatians:" "A deaf dog's brain is abnormal. Brain cells in both unilaterally and totally deaf Dals begin to deteriorate as early as the first day after being whelped. The neurons from the ear which become deaf are present, but degenerate before hearing is well established. (The puppy will be deaf by six weeks of age.) The degeneration of the neurons in the ear causes neurons in the brain to degenerate too."[11] The extent of this brain damage is not yet known, but perhaps as it varies, so does the ability of each deaf Dal to adapt. This would explain why some

deafs lead a relatively normal life, while most become fearful at some time in their lives and so often end up as biters.

Those who feel it is not humane to euthanize deaf puppies directly contribute to the misery and heartbreak caused by the many failed attempts to raise them. It is far worse to have these pups passed from owner to owner because no one can bear to put them down, but no one can manage them either. And the pup becomes a dog who lives in the basement or chained in the backyard because nobody can control it. This is humane? Of course not. Better to put down the puppies BEFORE they are placed in a home. Better to give the love and attention to a healthy pup who has a real chance at survival. Better for pet owners to be better educated about their breed, so there are fewer and fewer deaf puppies born in the first place.●

[10] According to Sharon Boyd: "Spotsavers is the Rescue Organization in the St. Louis area which specializes in Dals. Most regional clubs have an intrinsic Rescue program and several have separated them from their clubs in order not to get funds and activities confused. This is the case with Spotsavers. It seems with Dals becoming more and more popular, which causes more and more people to think they would like to breed a little, there are more and more of them that need rescuing. It is NOT a breed well suited to all lifestyles and when a person who is not knowledgeable in the breed, places an ad and sells puppies to whomever comes along wanting one, with no breed-background info being offered—WAHLAH—the dogs eventually need to be rescued, especially when the allure of puppyhood wears off. And it's the responsible people who DO know what they're doing who come along to mop up. All the more reason for DEAFS to be humanely euthanized. There are far too many HEALTHY puppies available out there to allow a potential danger to live.

"I am certain that, given the fact that so many people are breeding Dals without meeting health and temperament criteria, that there are incidences of a hearing Dal biting a child, whether startled or not. The startle factor is just so overwhelming in a deaf it is the focus of any argument to keep or not to keep one. Dals suffer from several OTHER maladies, including deafness, that are brought to the forefront when bred haphazardly. They are uric acid (forming kidney and bladder stones), epilepsy, entropian (inverted) eyelids, skin allergies, and unsuitable TEMPERAMENT! When you consider that absolutely NO responsible breeder would consider placing a deaf, you realize that the deaf population is primarily made up of haphazardly bred Dals who have been brought into the world with no forethought or knowledge of the breed. That means they ALSO are subject to the aforementioned maladies since no one has addressed them BEFORE a mating took place. Scary, isn't it?"

[11] "Several breeders have been donating their deaf puppies to the Kresge Hearing Research Institute at the University of Michigan." Cochlear-implant researchers at Johns Hopkins University "have clearly demonstrated that in the absence of inputs from the cochlea, neurons located in the brain undergo significant shrinkage" (Wilson).

"Would I euthanize a dog because it was deaf? Not when there is a way to communicate with them, and train them to be happy, safe, well-behaved pets."

—

Caroline Crosby

Disaster in Houston; triumph in Spokane

"Deaf dogs are potentially very dangerous," says Sharon Boyd. "A dog lacks the power of reason and the ability to read a situation and react accordingly. A startled animal lashes out in an instantaneous reflex reaction. A deaf dog is continually startled, especially when asleep. "

She once received a call from a frantic woman in Houston who had bought a deaf Dal from a backyard breeder. This dog "was a complete JOY. She had learned hand signals with ease and was completely and utterly in control. Not a smidgen[12] of a sign of aggression or shyness was evident." The woman had a wonderful time with the dog—until it was a year old. Late for school one morning, the woman's 8-year-old daughter "came bounding into the kitchen" and gave her beloved sleeping Dal a goodbye hug. The startled dog "opened a gash in the child's face that required many stitches to close"—and additional plastic surgery to restore her appearance. The woman was sick with anguish and

called the Houston Dalmatian Club to try to find someone to take the dog.

A contrasting tale: last year, **Woman's World** had a brief writeup by Irene Zutell (in the "Amazing Pets" department) about Juliette, a deaf Dal adopted from an animal shelter by the Eisenman family of Spokane, Washington.[13] The sign above the puppy's cage read "Deaf and Uncontrollable." Jody Eisenman, who worked with developmentally-disabled people and used sign language every day, thought she, her husband Michael, and their two boys, J.J. and Aaron, might be able to train the pup. They took her home—and Juliette "tore a path of destruction through her new home." "Uncontrollable" she certainly was. J.J. and Michael immediately began drilling Juliette in the signed command "Sit!" a half-hour every day. They kept at it for weeks, without luck. Finally, Juliette responded. It was a breakthrough. She began learning, "and the more she learned, the better he obeyed. Today, four years later, Juliette is a model pet who understands 35 hand signals." And Jody Eisenman said the boys gained "a tremendous sense of pride" from their experience. "They've learned about patience, and now they're more sensitive to people with disabilities."

12 **smidgen**: tiniest bit.

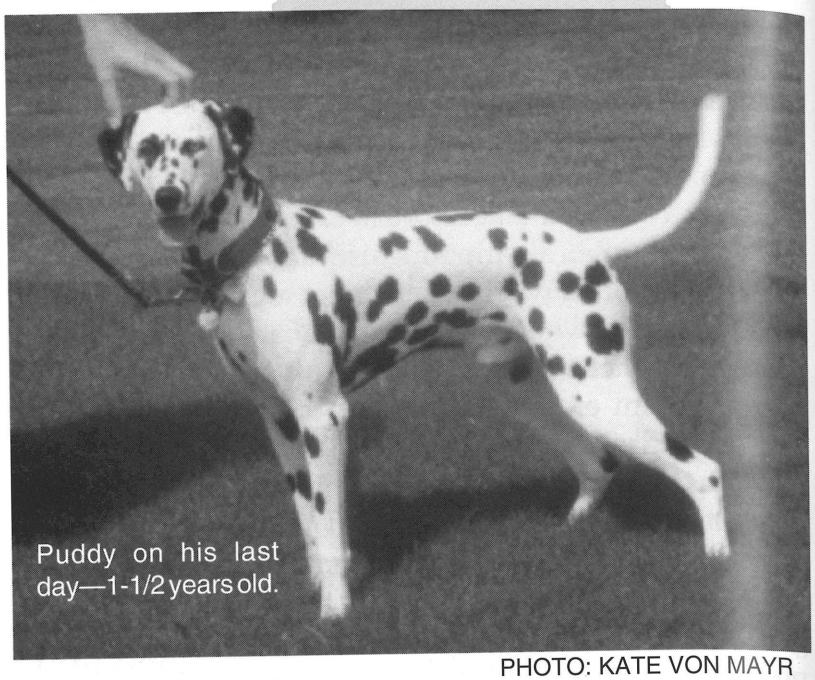
13 "The deaf dog who learned sign language," **Woman's World**, June 22, 1993.

Much like the Eisenmans, Robert and Kathleen Von Mayr found their deaf Dalmatian puppy in a pound. Their experience, however, was tragic.

"A walking time bomb": the story of Puddy

Robert Von Mayr, Allen, Texas

Ajax (a.k.a. "Puddy") came into our lives on 3 December 1990. We picked him up from the Plano pound; we'd been looking for a Dalmatian as a companion for our German Shepherd/Coyote Cross, Thea. We were trolling[14] the pounds with our hearts set on a Dal. We saw him as we entered the shelter. He had just been picked up that morning, perfectly healthy-looking, but also asleep in the pandemonium.[15] He didn't wake until we touched him; we found that he was deaf. He was about 3 months old; we thought that he had just been let loose by accident. We took his arrival on our day at the pound as a sign that he was to be ours. The pound was required to hold him for at least 7 days after picking him up prior to releasing him for adoption, to give his owners a chance to claim him.



Puddy on his last day—1-1/2 years old.

PHOTO: KATE VON MAYR

We had done some initial research before we began looking and had decided that we were the kind of family for a Dalmatian. During the next week we read through several more reference books, and other than the fact that deafness was considered a disqualification from the conformation and obedience rings, we found no mention of other problems as long as proper training was given. We got to the pound the next Saturday well before it opened at 9:00. We'd been told to be there early, and sure enough, 10 minutes later someone else rolled in who wanted him. Since we were first, we got him. He was a very excitable dog. Since his eyes were his main input from the world, he was always trying to watch everything and everybody.

He was such a sweet baby, and never gave us much trouble as a puppy. Quickly housebroken, he was sweet to our friends. But he was an extremely aggressive dog; he wanted to be *the* pack leader. When we petted Thea, he

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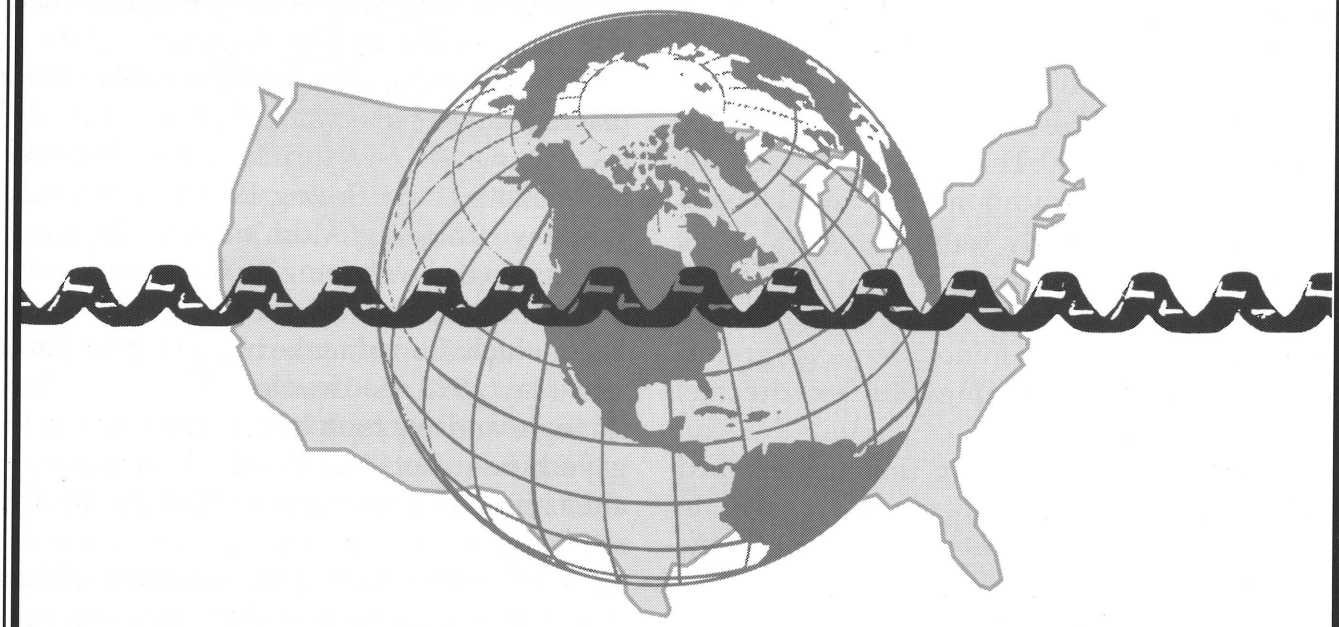

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pushed between us and her. He and Thea got into some minor normal turf fights over bones and dishes, but these soon calmed down. They got along famously,[16] always running around and playing with each other. He was a good companion for her. He didn't like the dominance games we played with him, but we finally made him understand where he fell in the pack (and it wasn't the top!).

We found that our usual training methods were having little effect. We hired a private trainer for Puddy, at a cost of $300. This worked wonders for him and our communication with him. He was soon (7-8 weeks) mostly trained in the 7 basic obedience commands (Come, Sit, Stay, Bed, Heel, Down from the Front, Down from the Side) as well as finishes and other minor points. He graduated from obedience training with a certificate, and continued to obey all commands he saw throughout his life. The day that we finished obedience training was one of the most satisfying I have known; we thought we had solved the problem of having a deaf animal.

In Fall 1991 we went on a 3-day trip and had some close friends watch him and Thea. They reported that he'd been extremely hostile and that they'd been afraid of him while they were trying to let him out of his crate and outside during their twice-daily visits. We found this disturbing but attributed it to his developing protective instincts.

By Christmas 1991, he was almost completely trained and perfectly obedient. We went to visit my mom in Tucson, who owns two Bassets. We decided to have him neutered there. He and the older male got into several "territorial" fights. Christmas Day, we walked the dogs over to see the people who had given us Thea, and while we were talking to the parents, their little girl came to pet Puddy, who was on his leash. Puddy lunged at her and grabbed the sleeve of her shirt, frightening her, scraping her skin and actually drawing blood. We were alarmed, but wrote it off as an accident, thinking he was trying to play and misjudged things. We didn't know then how closely a dog can judge his bite. My wife and I had grown up with dogs, but we'd never experienced a biter, so we didn't really understand what was beginning to happen with Puddy.

Over the next several months, he became very aggressive towards everyone but us. On walks, he would lunge towards children who were approaching him. He wasn't always friendly to our friends; even with a muzzle on he would suddenly attempt to attack for what appeared to be no reason. With us, he always behaved in a perfect manner (except for the occasional normal challenge to our authority); he was sweet and obedient.

Without talking about it, Kate and I just started placing him in his crate when we had visitors because we weren't sure how he'd behave. My mom visited us in Spring 1992 with her Bassets. While we unloaded Mom's car, Puddy attacked the female and was going for the throat; we had to drag him off. He wore a muzzle for the rest of the visit, which did *not* make him a happy camper.

In May 1992, he developed a skin condition (mange) and we took him to the vet. Dr. Pierce gave him a shot, and Puddy would have gone after him had I not been holding on tightly. He snarled at Dr. Pierce. The next week, I took him for a follow-up visit. After the examination, Dr. Pierce moved towards Puddy, who was now on the floor. Puddy snapped and growled at him as he approached. Dr. Pierce said that he thought that Puddy was a fear biter and that we ought to work more with him on his socialization.

The next week, we revisited Dr. Pierce. Puddy was standing, muzzled, on the table; Dr. Pierce was just stroking his side. I was holding him pretty securely when all of the sudden, out from nowhere, he turned around, lunged, and would have bitten Dr. Pierce in the face. Dr. Pierce was upset, and we discussed the fact that Puddy was a walking time bomb of aggressive behavior. Dr. Pierce said that he'd been mistaken the last week and that Puddy was exhibiting *aggressive* biting. He said that he would contact a behaviorist for us to see if there was anything we could do. We had been on Prodigy[17] for some time by then, communicating with several breeders. *All* of them, and our other friends as well, told us that all biters should be put down and that any further attempt to correct the situation would ultimately prolong the agony. We spent the balance of the weekend agonizing about the situation.

We decided that as responsible pet owners, our only possible recourse[18] was to put him to sleep.

We realized that we couldn't control his environment for every second for the rest of his life, and all that it would take was one incident, perhaps involving a child, and we would have to put him down then, after he had caused much pain to some innocent person or dog.

He was put to sleep on the morning of 15 June 1992. It was quite possibly the hardest decision that we have ever made in our lives, and nothing since I was a small child made me cry like I did for him. He was so sweet to us, obedient, well-trained, but completely unpredictable in his behavior towards others. We had provided the best possible home for him during his stay on earth, and it turned out poorly at the end. We miss him very much; he will be a part of our memories forever.

As we have learned more about Dalmatians, it became obvious that he had been born to a backyard breeder who had not properly socialized him with his littermates or other human beings, and that his deafness was n't the sole cause of his problem. We will forever crusade against the adoption of deaf Dals, either from backyard breeders or the pounds. We feel that the small possibility that a born-deaf Dal may be able to successfully overcome all its problems is far outweighed by the heartache and sadness that are most likely to be found in owning one.●

[14] **trolling**: literally, fishing around; searching.
[15] **pandemonium**: loud, confusing, overpowering noise (here, dozens of dogs barking at once).
[16] **famously**: very well.
[17] **Prodigy**: a popular computer network/bulletin board.
[18] **recourse**: a means of help.

Recently, the **Chicago Tribune** and Santa Fe **New Mexican** carried articles about Caroline Crosby, who operates her controversial School for Deaf Dalmatians from her home in Santa Fe, New Mexico. A speech pathologist who has Deaf friends and uses and enjoys sign language. The **New Mexican** described her as "a single-engine, underground railroad working to save the deaf Dalmatian pups." Both articles featured Laura Husar's photos of 6-year-old Dottie, Crosby's first and favorite deaf Dalmatian.[19]

"No failures as of yet": a mini-interview with Caroline Crosby

What sort of responses have you been getting to the publicity?

The response to articles/publicity has been great. So far, we have been contacted by over 100 people wanting information, owning, or wanting to own a deaf dog.

Have you gotten a number of calls and written inquiries from deaf people?

Approximately 10% of our contacts have been from Deaf people. I would assume that some Deaf people would opt for a dog that could hear, simply for the benefits it would provide. About half of the Hearing people who contact us have been or are involved in the Deaf community. Our bylaws do not permit us to place a dog with someone unless they have had some experience with Deafness/Sign Language.

How many dogs have you placed?

To date, we have placed and trained 15 deaf Dalmatians. People usually go through 8-10 training sessions.

Do you feel there's any ground to DCA's objections that deaf dogs often have behavior problems and create unnecessary difficulties for their owners?

Deaf dogs are just like hearing dogs, except they can't hear. To say that a deaf dog by definition has a bad temperament or will become aggressive is not an accurate representation of the breed, or deafness in general. I understand that the DCA believes that deaf Dalmatians have brain abnormalities. Congenital deafness in Dalmatians is similar to that in humans. It is related to an inoperative organ of Corti. Some DCA literature reports that deaf dogs are born without eardrums, or have organic brain abnormalities. We feel this is a misrepresentation. Of the 15 dogs we have placed, none has ever been aggressive or had a bad temperament. We feel that placing a deaf dog with Hearing people who are not familiar with

Crosby with her star pupil, 6-year-old Dottie.

Deafness and/or Sign Language could lead to undesirable results, and that is why people who adopt through our school must have such a background.

Have you experienced any failures raising and training deaf pups?

No failures as of yet. The dogs we have placed and trained are adored by their owners, and know a minimum of 5-10 signs, with some dogs learning more.

How intelligent *are* Dalmatians? Are some Dalmatians a lot smarter than others?

Dalmatians are innately intelligent. This can actually make them harder to train, because they tend to think for themselves, and often have "a mind of their own." However, it also means their memory is good, and their ability or "hard wiring" for learning is optimal.

Every dog has its own personality, and, yes, some are smarter than others. I trained one dog who was extremely intelligent and learned a new sign in her second training session after five trials (a trial being one of us making the sign, helping her to perform the desired result, and rewarding her).

Would you ever, under any circumstance, have a dog euthanized? DCA believes in destroying a pup as soon as its deafness is diagnosed.

In this society, we are able to choose to euthanize animals. People often euthanize an animal when it has been badly physically impaired in an accident, or has a debilitating disease. I think that breeders who believe in euthanizing deaf animals do so because either they feel the dog will be a danger, as it will be left untrained, or to prevent it from being bred and to help "stamp out" the gene that causes deafness.

I understand that these are organizations involved in the political/moral issue of euthanizing deaf animals. A solution they have tried to submit to the AKC and the DCA could easily remedy, or at least partially solve, the problem of deafness in canines. Why not have all registered Dalmatians tested via BAER, and only permit bilaterally-hearing dogs to be registered? That would prevent unilaterally-deaf dogs (who often sire more bilaterally-deaf pups) from being registered and bred. Since we are not a political organization, I am not sure of the current status of this suggestion with regards to the AKC or the DCA.

I have had a cat euthanized because its back legs were crushed in an accident. Would I personally euthanize an animal because it was deaf? No. Not when there is a way to communicate with them, and train them to be happy, safe, well-behaved pets.

What other considerations are there? Some of our Deaf readers may decide they, too, would like a deaf pup. What's your advice?

My advice to people who want to adopt a deaf animal:

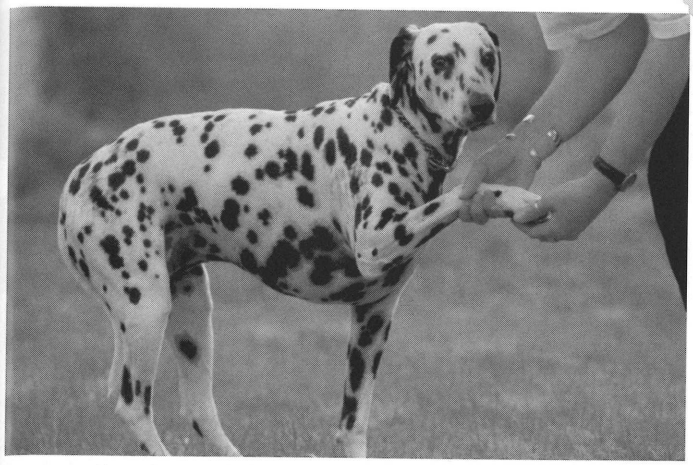
Consider carefully the amount of time it will take to train the dog.

Locate a trainer in your area who can work with you on an individual basis.

Obtain as much information as you can on training dogs in general, and deafness in canines.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Our aim has always been the training and place-



Photos: Laura Husar

ment of deaf canines. Although our views differ significantly from the DCA's and other organizations, we are not in the business of trying to change the minds of people who believe euthanasia is the best choice. We are not a political organization. We train deaf animals. We do not attempt to make anyone "WRONG," nor do we take public stands on moral or political views.●

[19] Michael Haederle, "A Champion for deaf Dalmatians: Teacher finds a spot for them by teaching them to obey sign language," **Chicago Tribune**, January 13, 1994; and Kay Bird, "Creating a safe haven for deaf dogs," The **New Mexican**, March 1994.

●●●●●●

For more information...

Tanya B. Ditto, **Dalmatians: A Complete Pet Owner's Manual** (Hauppauge, New York: Barron's, 1991

Beverly Pisano, **Dalmatians** (Neptune, New Jersey: TFH Publications, c. 1988)

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Dalmatian Club of America, Inc.
Mrs. Irvin D. Fleming, Secretary
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Memphis, TN 38117
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Deaf Life Thanks to: Ann Feiler at the Chicago Public Library (who, together with Kathie Skyer Hering, President of ALDA-Chicago, gave us the idea for this article), David Kay, Caroline Crosby, Robert Von Mayr, and, not least, Sharon Boyd of the DCA, for their help.

Santa Fe School for Deaf Dalmatians

Mission Statement

It is the goal of The Santa Fe School for Deaf Dalmatians to provide an alternative to euthanasia or placement in a research facility for breeders of canines for whom deafness is prevalent or apparent, and owners of deaf canines.

To fulfill our mission, the Santa Fe School for Deaf Dalmatians:

a) Obtains deaf Dalmatians, and initiates and facilitates their acquisition and training in sign language by their adopted families. Adopted families are required to already have, or be in the process of obtaining, significant knowledge of deafness and/or sign language. The term "significant knowledge" shall include, but not be limited to: 1) being Deaf; 2) holding current certification as a Sign-Language Interpreter or Teacher of the Deaf; 3) having a Deaf child or family member; 4) having completed a minimum of two courses in Sign Language and/or Deafness taught by a certified instructor.

b) Provides ongoing training sessions, free of charge, to owners of deaf canines.

c) Provides free lectures and literature to local and out-of-state breeders, owners, and other interested persons.

d) Facilitates an increase in community awareness of deafness and its relationship to animals.

e) Provides referrals to other trainers and organizations familiar with deafness for out-of-state breeders, owners, organizations, and other interested persons.

f) Records the breed, type, age, physical characteristics, placement, and details of canine training, for research purposes.

Funding Sources

We are funded in part by Santa Fe REHAB, public donation, and sponsor membership fees.

Upon obtaining funding, we plan to complete yearly direct mailings to veterinarians, breeders, kennels, and interested persons.

Yearly Dog-Walk planned for October 13, 1994 (dogs will be sponsored for walking).

"For Deaf inmates, it's a

No interpreters, no services, no programs that could benefit Deaf inmates once they're released—just where did San Luis Obispo get a reputation for being accessible?—Editors

September 14, 1993

To the Media,

The purpose of this letter is that you will publish it in your newspaper or interview us about the truth of how the prison treats us.

We Deaf inmates incarcerated for a variety of charges as well as hearing inmates, when entering the system, there is no problem for the hearing inmates in communicating because they can hear and talk, but it's a different story for the Deaf who communicate solely in American Sign Language.

When I arrived at the Southern California CDC [California Division of Correction] Reception Center (Chino), all the correctional officers were angry with me because I would not response to pages or the officers trying to communicate with me verbally. They didn't care that I was Deaf. Because of this, they found numerous way to intimidate and harass me. When going before a panel of classification members, I was blatantly denied access to a professional interpreter. I did not understand the process of classification; I had no idea what was being discussed. In a courtroom, this would be grounds for a dismissal of the case against me for denial of due process. The CDC feels that they are not responsible for providing due process for individuals.

When I arrived at the California Men's Colony, an institution publicized as being the host institution for the hearing-impaired in the prison system, and possessing all the programming for the Deaf, I was subjected to a rude awakening that all that's been said about this institution is and was false. There is *no* programming for the Deaf at this facility. There are *no* interpreters for the Deaf here. Hearing inmates are allowed to participate in self-help groups, i.e., Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, educational and vocational classes, psych services, etc., but when [we're] asking for the same access through an interpreter, the CDC states they don't have the funds for it. Meanwhile we are denied equal access to programs that would/could enhance our chances of rebuilding our lives once released from prison. We have asked for interpreters, but have been flatly refused.

When I first arrived, I was placed in an area of the institution where there were no other Deaf inmates (C-Quad). I asked to be moved to A-Quad where there were other Deaf inmates so that I would have someone to talk to. I was then moved to A-Quad; I met 13 other Deaf inmates who stated that there were no interpreters for the Deaf here. I then contacted the Associate Warden Linda Clarke to complain about the lack of interpreters at this facility for educational and vocational programs as well as medical, classification, etc. The Deaf inmates as a whole were making their requests known to the administration, but they would not make any attempt at meeting our needs. On the contrary, they have looked for every possible avenue of escape, in avoiding the issue.

I have contacted Ms. Coleen Ashly of the Greater Los Angeles Council on Deafness [GLAD], in Ventura. She has been visiting us here once a month. She has also met with administrative staff and she clearly sees that the administration has violated our constitutional rights and human rights. She contacted them and made suggestions, but they avoided her. We have filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Justice as well. They came here to interview us. They also informed administrative staff that they would have to provide interpreters. To this date, [more

A FEW MORE WORDS

a different story"

than] 6 months later, CMC staff still refuse to comply.

The point is, we need some kind of help. Where are the rights for Deaf people? The Federal Government has passed specific laws regarding the Deaf (handicapped), [such as] Section 504 [Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title V] and the Americans with Disabilities Act. What good do these laws do us when the Federal Government won't even follow up to protect us? Where is the integrity of the United States Government? They pass plenty of laws to place people in prison and then support those laws, but when it comes to human rights, [what then]? The U.S. Government is lacking in consistency.

We have decided to file a formal complaint in Federal Courts. They have stated that we don't have to exhaust administrative remedies. It will be interesting to see how they respond, supporting the laws they have instituted.

Your consideration in printing this will be greatly appreciated or anything you could do for us or suggest to us. Please do.

Evelio Torres
E.98591 B-Q 3103
California Men's Colony
P.O. Box 8101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93409-8101

Update: January 22, 1994

As you know, we have already filed [a complaint] in Federal Court. Recently, the Federal Court sent a letter to me stating that our document is being processed in court. They also gave us the names of Judges Manuel L. Real and Robert M. Stone. I'm going to represent myself and the others. I don't want to do it, but if I have to then I will. Recently I was contacted by Paul L. Hoffman of the A.C.L.U. [American Civil Liberties Union] in Los Angeles. He stated that he is interested in our case, but wants to get more information regarding the 504 complaint, and letters to Department of Justice, Warden W. A. Duncan, and Ms. Ashly of GLAD. I sent all information to him. On December 12, 1993, he and his assistant lawyer were supposed to come and interview us, but CMC staff refused to let them come in because they hadn't filed a specific form stating they are attorneys and representing us. Then on January 5, 1994, Ms. Ashly came here as usual, on a monthly basis, telling me that Mr. Hoffman had quit his job as legal defender for ACLU. Now I don't know if another person will take his place, accepting our case. We will find it out, hopefully as soon as possible. On the filed complaint in Federal Court we asked for $15 million.

Deaf and hard-and-hearing inmates at the California Men's Colony in San Luis Obispo. Back row, left to right: John McDonald, Donald Kean, Charles Hartfield, Rico Tomaz, Ken Michel, Ronald Vasquez, and Mark Hernandez. Front row, left to right: Earl Corey, Evelio "Victor" Torres, and Ernie McCurdy. Not pictured: Ron Blaney, Gustavo Romero, and Elio Castro.

READERS' RESPONSES

Do you feel that 9-1-1/emergency access has improved in the past 5 years?

5% Yes 89% No 6% Not sure

NOT SURE—It is early to say because the ADA requirement of TTY accessibility to the emergncy services began just two years ago. Michigan produced an 8-minute videotape to train/review the 911 operators on receiving and sending TTY calls. It is ideal for use during the breaks regularly to maintain their TTY skills. The tape was produced by Ameritech with assistance from Michigan Relay Advisory Board and Michigan Emergency Services Committee and mailed to over 750 agencies including police, 911 centers, hospitals, and fire departments in the state in January, 1994. We got favorable responses and enthusiasm from few who responded to our mailing. Also, Michigan Telecommunications Act permits the EMS agencies to purchase TTYs from telephone companies at cost. Significant improvements are not noticed, yet.

NO—I still hear complaints lately on no improvements.

YES—In the state of Massachusetts, emergency TTY calls have not always been answered appropriately. Often because the dispatchers/telecommunicators did not have a TTY, or if they did, they rarely received formal training in handling TTY equipment or how to communicate with TTY-users.

Legislation signed into law on December 11, 1990 in Massachusetts, provides funding and approval for a statewide Enhanced 9-1-1 service. The law established the Statewide Emergency Telecommunications Board (S.E.T.B.) who have develop standards that require built-in TTY accessibility in every Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). We will implement, train communications personnel, and maintain oversight authority for the E 9-1-1 system in the 351 cities and towns across the Commonweatlh.

The implementation of the 270 PSAPs will take approximately two years: expected to be completed by December 1995. The Mass. Enhanced 9-1-1 system will also include a unique disablity indicator on the equipment that will help identify the caller's hearing loss or disability. This option is made available to communities and citizens who choose to participate.

In addition to the telecommunicators' training, the S.E.T.B. will soon begin offering deaf and hard-of-hearing community education. This instruction will provide information and training to deaf and hard-of-hearing consumers in how to use the Enhanced 9-1-1 system.

To respond to your question if 9-1-1 emergency access has improved in the past 5 years, we do believe our planning and coordinating for this implementation process has prepared the state of Mass. to have the best 9-1-1 system for ALL citizens because the law demands equal Enhanced 9-1-1 access.

NO—I lost my home to a terrible fire. Police and fireman failed to respond to my call. I tried to call someone thru 911 and then tried the relay to reach police. It was too late. Fire was already too big for me to handle so I went to next door for help. My next door called 911 and it worked for them.

Readers have asked us how many "Faxview" responses we get every month.
This month's total: 125

Deaf Life

READERS' VIEWPOINT

FAXVIEW

DEAF LIFE would like to know what you think about major issues affecting the Deaf community. Tear out **or** photocopy this page and fax your response to (716) 328-6720, **or** mail it to us at Box 23380, Rochester, NY 14692-3380.

Should deaf puppies be destroyed just because they're deaf?

❑ Yes ❑ No ❑ Not sure

(Deaf readers' responses only, please!)

Why?

Comments: _____

_____

_____

_____

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Deadline: July 1,1994

FAXVIEW

(716) 328-6720

Please respond promptly so that we can publish the results in the August issue.

Whaddya Say To A Guy Who's Had The Same Job For 50 Years, Has Never Called In Sick Or Showed Up Late, Never Taken A Vacation Or A Holiday, Never Asked For A Raise Or Griped About His Bonus And, Believe It Or Not, Has No Plans For Retirement?

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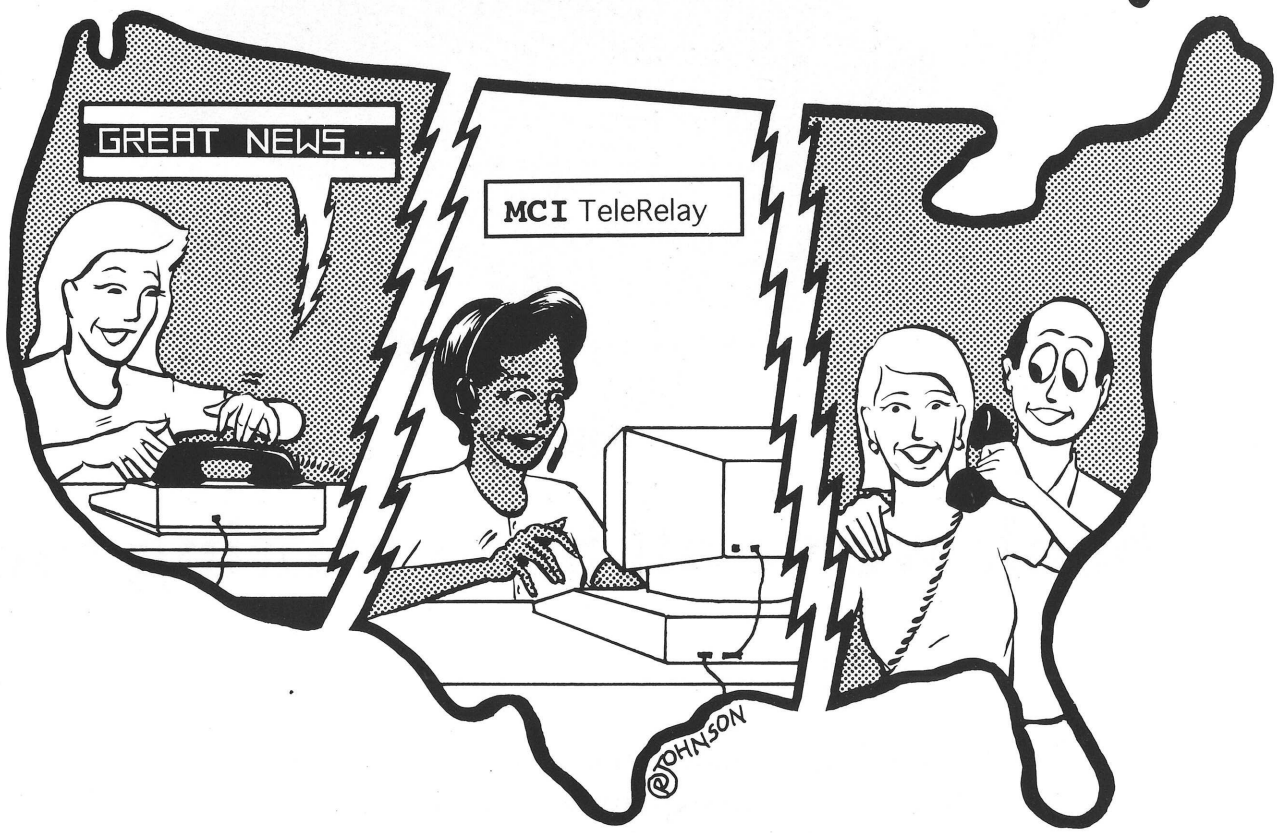

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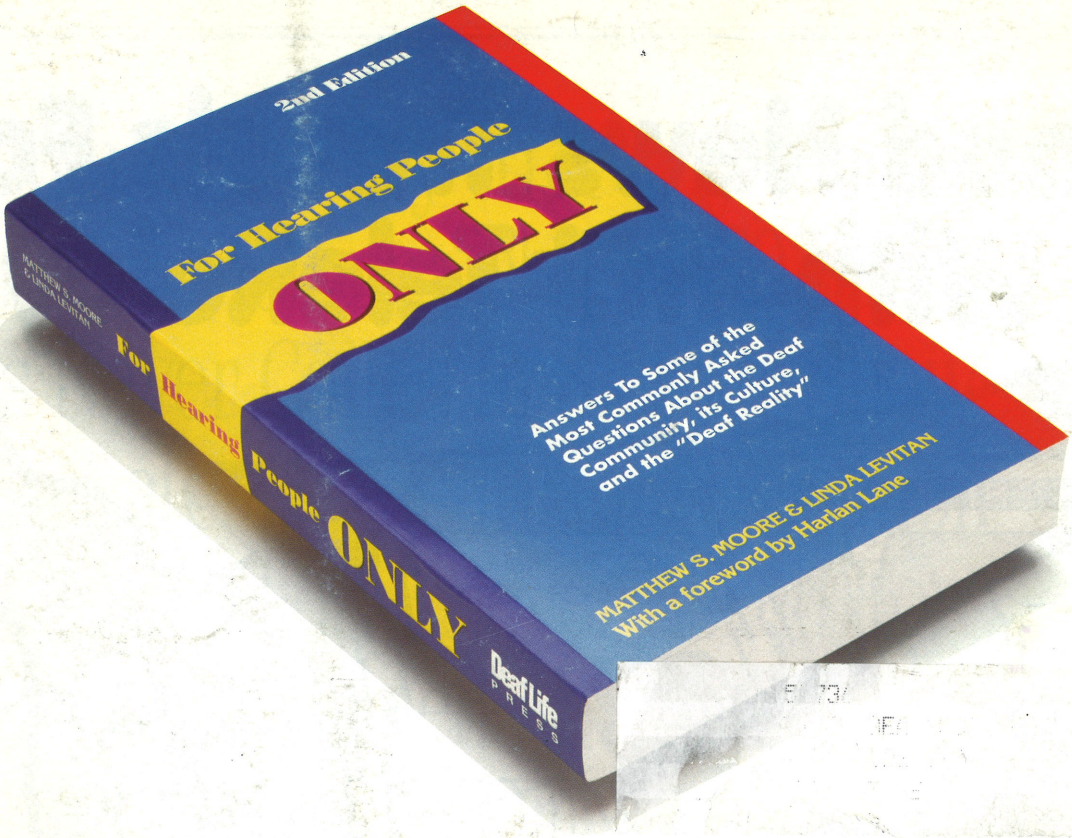
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• RELEASES • ANNOUNCEMENTS • UPCOMING EVENTS • LATE-BREAKING NEWS •

JUNE 1994

Deaf Life Plus

Signs of a Struggle at Gallaudet U.

"The Harvard of the Deaf" battles to meet the needs of its students and ready them for the outside world

by **Brooke A. Masters**
Staff Writer, **The Washington Post***

Flicking fingers and broad gestures signal a political debate in the cafeteria. Students tap each others' shoulders to make sure everyone is ready for class to begin. A courting couple passing the library begins their goodbyes with crossed arms over their hearts.

Often for the first time in their lives, the 1,850 undergraduates at Gallaudet University are not outsiders. When they arrive on the Northeast Washington campus, they can stop struggling to read lips and speak and begin using their real voices—their hands and faces—with authority.

Now fraternity parties, football games, and French classes revolve around them—the deaf—and "hearies" are the ones trying to catch up. Bill Clinton may be president, but when he speaks today [i.e., May 13] at Gallaudet's commencement, he'll be the one who needs an interpreter.

Some students eagerly embrace this new sense of community so eagerly that they protest English reading and writing requirements as an imposition of "hearing values." Many students have had trouble learning to read and write because they did not grow up hearing the language. According to a university study, 70 percent of undergraduates cannot read a college-level text.

Those who hear and speak well enough to use a telephone say they are often mocked with a dismissive gesture that means "thinks like a hearing person." Sometimes, students say, they feel obliged to choose between celebrating what they call "Deaf culture" and preparing for life after graduation.

Many of them arrive with elementary-school skills. Others have been accepted at mainstream colleges but choose Gallaudet for the empowering social environment. Often they share the same classroom, so top students are bored while the rest flounder. So do many of their professors, who are less adept at sign language than they are. "In some ways we're Harvard, in others we're Prince George's Community College," university President I. King Jordan said through an interpreter. "It is part of our mission" as an institution for the deaf that receives 75 percent of its $100 million budget from the federal government.

■ **Classifieds** **30**
■ **The Caption Report** **31**

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What we want:

Send us anything you think is appropriate. Items should be of national, not just local, interest. Typed articles with photos preferred. Photos, etc., will be returned on request. We reserve the right to reject or edit any material.

When we need it:

Please send material by the first of the month for publication the following month, with a 10-day grace period. (Items for November 1992 publication, for example, must be sent before October 10.) The earlier, the better. We will not accept any story more than 1 month old.

Where to send it:

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Jordan, who lost his hearing at 21 when he was injured in a motorcycle accident, was swept into office by the 1988 Deaf President Now movement at Gallaudet. He has become a national symbol of what deaf people can achieve, saying, "Deaf people can do anything . . . but hear."

The question is: Can Gallaudet prepare them to do it?

More Acceptance

Nearly half of Gallaudet graduates receive postgraduate degrees, and nearly two-thirds are professionals—half of them teachers and counselors—according to an alumni survey. Most working alumni have made their livings working with deaf people or at schools with special programs for the deaf, and many of them had no choice. Employers traditionally did not want to deal with employees who couldn't use the telephone or needed interpreters to communicate with colleagues or clients.

But computers, electronic mail, and affordable TTYs are making it easier for deaf people to work in the hearing world.

The 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act makes it illegal to refuse to hire deaf people. New York investment banks and other firms now interview at Gallaudet, and two of this year's seniors are the first Gallaudet students to be accepted to dental schools.

Bernadette Hoff, a senior who lost her hearing six years ago and read lips and speaks, says she wants to go to law school, specializing in women's rights. She envisions having a position such as legal counsel for the National Organization for Women.

But senior Cathy Valcourt, who has some residual hearing, is concerned about whether she will be ready for a career in the outside world. "My English skills have decreased; my writing skills have decreased," she said, speaking her answers to questions posed in sign language. "They don't challenge you enough."

One-third of new students are enrolled in remedial English and math classes. Still, 60 percent of Gallaudet undergraduates drop out, according to enrollment services director Astrid Goodstein. Those who graduate take an average of seven years, and many of them take a casual approach to their studies. "There is a widespread attitude that it's fine to have a C," said Jochen Schacht, a biochemistry professor at the University of Michigan who works with Gallaudet interns in the summer. "The reality is that a C from Gallaudet will get them nowhere."

English vs. Sign Language

Like most conversations on campus, classes at Gallaudet are conducted in American Sign Language, which has a different structure from English. Gestures embodying entire concepts often take the place of individual words. ASL does not use verb tenses, and verbs generally appear near the end of a thought. There are few, if any, articles.

It is common for deaf students to have trouble with tenses, articles, and word order when they read and write. "Will you support with us to protest for against English Grade Systems?" one student wrote to his classmates on a computer bulletin board. "The English department with Gally is in the quicksand the hard they try the deeper they get into," another student wrote in another computer conversation.

The university's goal is a bilingual student body, one that speaks ASL and reads and writes English.

Some professors compensate for students' reading skills by assigning fewer pages and lecturing from the text. A few have written simplified tests, but even that creates problems. "If you give them a book that presents information at a third-grade level, they're insulted," said Janet Dillehay, chairman of the biology department. "They want the regular lab book, but they can't handle it." Gallaudet's freshman English course used to be an introduction to literature. Now it is a course in reading skills.

The faculty also contributes to the communication deficit. Students and faculty members estimate that as many as half the faculty cannot sign well enough to lead a spirited class discussion. They say those professors waste time groping for a gesture, duck students' questions, or simply stop the discussion.

Few professors with Ph.D.s also know ASL. About 30 percent of Gallaudet professors are deaf and fluent in ASL, but professors who cannot sign must learn on the job. Through an ASL interpreter, senior Karl Ewan said he asked for help when he couldn't understand his economics professor, who "said he didn't have time. He used that as an excuse . . . when he was afraid to communicate. My education was being stolen."

Out of the Loop

In a world where hearing people casually absorb much of their information off the airwaves or from overheard conversations, the communication deficit at Gallaudet extends beyond the classroom to students' personal and social lives, and the lives they will live after college. Long after race and sex became flash points on mainstream campuses, blacks and women have just begun to organize at Gallaudet and ask for special attention That has everything to do with the fact that they are double or triple minorities. "When I asked people, do you think of yourself as deaf first or a woman first, they all said deaf first," said Hoff, the aspiring lawyer who has lobbied the student government on women's issues. "I'm a woman first. But I've only been deaf six years."

Hoff came to Gallaudet from hearing schools where she used all her energy reading lips. "I felt oppressed, I felt I needed to find out that I was not the only deaf person," she said. She also found out that "we're behind in every way. . . . It's a natural thing for us to take longer to get informed."

A recent Gallaudet graduate described an incident in which a hearing graduate student ignored her efforts to sign NO! and forced her to have sex on their first date. She said she was unaware, until she talked to a hearing friend, that this fit the definition of date rape. "I was stunned," she said. "I thought he was just a bad person."

Other female students said they would not report a sexual

assault by a fellow student to the police because it would be a betrayal of the Deaf community. "I was afraid I would lose all my friends," said another female student who said she did not report a date rape to police or the university's judicial board and asked that her name not be used.

The deaf population is disproportionately white, and Gallaudet is more so, with blacks making up 10 percent of the student body. The course catalogue lists one course and no majors that deal with Black studies, and Black History Month, a staple at other campuses, is a new event at Gallaudet. The university has begun diversity training for staff and faculty members, and Jordan is hiring an assistant for minority concerns.

The fact remains that students have come to Gallaudet because of discrimination and isolation more profound than that faced by ethnic minorities or women.

"Before Gallaudet, I was so passive and shy," senior Sepid Fakhar, an Iranian-born honor student, wrote in reply to written questions. "Gallaudet woke me up. . . . I [broke] down the wall between myself and other people." Fakhar will attend Northwestern University's dental school this fall and use interpreters.

Steps Toward Change

The irony is that for many students, Gallaudet University increases their isolation, bonding them to a deaf world for which there are few counterparts after graduation. The career placement office often warns prospective employers about "deaf English" so that poor writing skills will not be mistaken for lack of intelligence.

Gallaudet administrators say the tension between ASL and English has been around for decades. What is new, they say, is that the topic is open for discussion. "Twenty years ago, we were not willing to try to do something," Phil Bravin, a Gallaudet alumnus and the first deaf chairman of its board of trustees, said through an interpreter.

In the last two years, Jordan and Academic Vice President Roslyn Rosen have asked all faculty members—not just English teachers—to help students with reading and writing. They have added more intensive ASL training for professors and made signing skills a requirement for raises and promotions. They have also set out to rank each academic program on its quality and its importance to Gallaudet's mission: providing the best education possible for deaf people. Rosen says everything is on the table, from the honor programs to remedial education. "The priority now is excellence" without turning away students with potential, Rosen said through an interpreter.

Gallaudet recently was accredited. The visiting team from Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools acknowledged in 1991 that Gallaudet, "having staked its claim as the only liberal-arts university for the deaf," is "an institution in transition." The team's report cited the university's "growing recognition" of the need to address communication problems and teaching quality. Last year, Gallaudet accepted 78 percent of its applicants, who must have some hearing loss.

"The amazing thing is not that Gallaudet falls rather short" of other 4-year colleges, said Howard University math professor David James, who is deaf and did not attend Gallaudet, "but that it functions as an institution of higher education at all."

Senior Kelby Brick, 22, has seen Gallaudet from the bottom and top of his class. He is a deaf child of deaf parents and learned to speak in special school programs and from his hearing siblings. After failing most of his courses during his sophomore year, he buckled down, got an internship on Capitol Hill, and went on to score in the top 6 percent on the law-school admission test.

"I never regretted my decision to come to Gallaudet," Brick said. "I'd rather make my mistakes here than out there."■

*This article (titled "Signs of a Struggle at Gallaudet U./ University for the Deaf Strives to Ready Students for the Outside World") originally appeared (in slightly different form) in the Friday, May 13, issue of the **Washington Post**. Copyright © 1994, **Washington Post**. Reprinted with permission. Thanks to **Steven T. Hardy** for his assistance.

NOT ENOUGH INTERPRETERS!

by **Greg Livadas** and **Bob Finnerty**
Staff Writers, Rochester **Times-Union***

Several RIT students say the college regularly fails to provide sign-language interpreters for them in their classes. The problem doesn't exist at NTID—where the teachers use sign language—but for deaf students who are cross-enrolled in RIT classes, composed mostly of hearing students.†

"As I see it, they're not sensitive to the students' needs," said Mark Tauscher, an MBA graduate student at RIT.

Tauscher, 28, of Chili, originally took classes at NTID, where he said the courses were not as difficult or critical to his degree. He said his courses now are "tremendously tough, and it's crucial that I have experienced people" interpret for him.

NTID Dean James J. DeCaro admits that up to 8 percent of classes are not covered by interpreters, but 10 interpreters were added this fall, giving the college 94 on its staff. Spending for interpreting will increase again next year. "The only way I would be able to draw this down to zero (percent) would be to have 150 interpreters on staff and that would not be prudent in this time of fiscal austerity," he said.

Of the more than 60,000 hours of service requested by students in 1992-93, the college did not provide coverage for up to 8 percent of the requests. So far in 1993-94, the college is on pace to cover all but 7 percent of the requests, which will likely surpass 70,000 hours.

"We've made substantial strides, but clearly there is room for improvement," DeCaro said. "While we're making strides to provide full coverage, it's not something we can guarantee."

NTID receives $6 million a year—or 86 percent of its budget—in federal money. The college will spend $3.9 million for interpreting in other colleges at RIT in 1993-94. Of that, $600,000 will be spent contracting with outside agencies, an increase of $30,000 from the previous year. Next year, the college expects to spend $4.1 million on interpreting services. "Because of the increased demand, we've made substantial and dramatic dedication of resources," DeCaro said. "We offer more than 60,000 hours annually. That's an extraordinary number."

He said 332 of NTID's 1,100 students are fully matriculated at other colleges in RIT. About half of them are the only deaf students in their classes. "It's an extraordinary logistical activity," he said. "We appreciate the students' concerns, but we believe we offer exceptional services."

Tauscher wants the college to establish a task force to look at interpreting problems. He said the college claims students are their #1 priority, and they should back up the claim with a financial commitment.

In a letter to Tauscher, RIT President Albert J. Simone said the college tries to balance the needs of students, the variety of course offerings, and interpreter availability. "In an ideal world, every student's needs would be met fully," he wrote. "In reality, even hearing students are not always satisfied with support that they feel is essential."

Many deaf students also rely on separate notetakers. If an interpreter is signing the lesson to the student, the student will miss portions of the lesson when s/he writes notes. Chris Kurz, 21, is a third-year student majoring in math and is the only deaf student in his classes. He said when he has a notetaker, often the notes are incomplete and illegible. "If it's illegible, you're stuck with it."

Tauscher said he and other students are exploring legal action.

"I need to be respected and have the information when my peers receive it," said student Todd Hlavacek, 25. "I don't want to receive it later through the book or through tutoring."

"I'd like to see a time when we have 100 percent coverage. This is our expectation," DeCaro said. "But in reality, demand will always be higher than supply."

Hlavacek said officials told him they were investigating ways to improve accessibility to the deaf. He asked, "Why did they wait 25 years?"■

*This article (titled "Deaf students: RIT lacks enough interpreters/Official: 10 added this year; spending to increase again") originally appeared in the Friday, May 13 issue of the Rochester **Times-Union**, in a slightly different form, and is reprinted with permission. Copyright © 1994, **Times-Union**. Thanks to **Tom Flynn**, Director of Communications at the **Democrat & Chronicle**.

† NTID's full name is the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, and it's one of 8 colleges of Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York.

AND BUST A STEREOTYPE, TOO?

Angel Flores, a third-year student in the Applied Art and Computer Graphics program at NTID, designed the logo for the May 18 "Beat the Back-up Day," a special event to increase use of alternative forms of transportation in the Brighton-Henrietta corridor (the south-suburban section of Rochester).

Flores' design, which features a gridlock of cars between the towns of Brighton and Henrietta, serves a dual purpose. While the back-up of cars represents a increasing traffic-congestion problem in the area, the rich blue and green colors were selected to reflect those of nature, evoking an image of a cleaner environment. "Beat the Back-up Day" was sponsored by the Brighton-Henrietta Transportation Management Association. The logo appeared on a range of media, including advertisements, billboards, posters, and T-shirts.

To gain professional work experience, students in NTID's Graphic Applications/Portfolio Review class regularly work with clients to design a range of graphic-arts products such as brochures, flyers, logos, mastheads, newsletters, and posters.

Flores is the son of **Aida Sosa** (Bronx, New York).

WHAT'S DOING IN HONOLULU

A bit of news from the Gallaudet University Regional Center at Kapiolani Community College:

✪ **Colette Cabral** became the fifth Outstanding Deaf Student of the Year at Kapi'olani Community College (KCC) during an annual awards luncheon held by the Regional Center on April 19th. Active as a young Deaf leader and ASL teacher while she pursues her liberal-arts degree, Cabral received a check for $300 presented by KCC Provost **John Morton**. **Georgia Morikawa**, Executive Director of Aloha State Association of the Deaf (ASAD), awarded Cabral $100 and one year's membership in ASAD.

✪ **"Mama" Ida Vernon** served as keynote speaker at the awards ceremony. Her address to the audience of students, faculty, and staff, recalled her own unique experience as an undergraduate at Gallaudet, where she began her college education at age 62 and graduated on May 18, 1981, her 67th birthday. For the past 5 years, she has worked as a tutor for Deaf students at KCC and has taught a Sign Language class for elderly people, sponsored by the Regional Center and Ka'imuki Community School for Adults. She also did volunteer work with deaf prisoners and served a term as president of the Aloha Chapter of the Gallaudet University Alumni Association. Now approaching her 80th birthday, she has decided it is time to "retire" and return to her native

Connecticut to be with her children and grandchildren. Hence, Mama Ida's luncheon speech was something of a farewell address and a bittersweet moment for members of Hawai'i's Deaf Community.

✪ The Center produced a 2-hour cable-television program for Hawaii's educational channel, broadcast on April 30. *Titled Assistive Technology for Hard-of-Hearing People*, the program featured a panel of experts, including Dr. **Robert McKay**, founder of the Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (SHHH) chapter in Hawai'i; **Janet Leuenberger**, Treasurer of Hawaii SHHH and the coordinator of the Regional Center's new assistive-technology loan bank; **MaryLee Ruth**, an audiologist with Honolulu Medical group; and **Francine Wai**, Executive Director of the Commission on Persons with Disabilities. The program was co-hosted by **Doreen Higa**, a speech pathologist at the Statewide Center (Hawai'i School for the Deaf and the Blind) and by Regional Center Director **Jim Fernandes**.

WHAT'S NEW AT MILL NECK MANOR

Shameka Wilson and Christopher Rogdakis signing "Rainbow Connection" at the Variety Children's Lifeline Award Dinner honoring Prince Philip.

Royal connection: Mill Neck Manor students **Shameka Wilson** and **Christopher Rogdakis** recently performed at the Variety Children's Lifeline Award Dinner held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City. This year's award recipient was **Prince Philip**, the Duke of Edinburgh (**Queen Elizabeth's** husband).

Each year Variety Clubs International provides opportunities to help children around the world through various programs. Variety Children's Lifeline, in particular, has provided life-saving surgery for more than 1,800 children from 55 countries. "We are pleased to honor His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, a distinguished leader who has greatly contributed to the welfare of young people and the state of the environment," said **Alice Walton**, General Chairperson of the dinner.

The evening began when Shameka and Christopher joined Prince Philip for a special dinner. Afterwards, **Maureen Arthur**, an Ambassador of Variety Clubs International, sang "Rainbow Connection" to a group of youngsters from North Shore Hospital, while Mill Neck Manor guidance counselor **Karen Carlson-Sorrentino** directed Shameka and Christopher in signing the song.

Rosalie Sochinski of Variety Club International, a longtime supporter of the Mill Neck Manor School for Deaf Children, invited the children to participate in the Award Dinner. She chose students from Mill Neck Manor because she visits its Apple Festival each year and is a regular contributor. And, as Mill Neck Manor Principal **Mary Zarnitz** said, "Ms. Sochinski hopes to volunteer at Mill Neck when she retires."

Mill Neck Manor's five International Creative Arts Festival winners. Front row, left to right: **Charmaine Konoski, Joseph Malone, and Kristen Piersa.** Back row: **Lisa Sudmann, Zachary Palisoc, High School teachers Maria Limperis, Karen Mizzi, and Dorann Lyon.**

Winning work: Five Mill Neck Manor students went to Chicago this past April to receive cash awards and ribbons for their winning work in the 18th Annual International Creative Arts Festival sponsored by The Center on Deafness. **Lisa Sudmann** was awarded First Place for her short story, "The Tragedy of Cindy's Story," about a woman stricken with AIDS. **Zachary Palisoc** was also awarded First Place for his poem "In the Distance." Also in the poetry category, **Kristen Piersa** placed third. (All three were High School students.) On the elementary level in the art category, **Charmaine Konoski** received second place and **Joseph Malone** third place.

They marched with candles at the awards ceremony, where each winner was recognized individually, and also participated in a weekend of festivities, including a workshop given by renowned Deaf artist **Chuck Baird**, who discussed his work and showed slides.

The purpose of the Festival is to enrich the quality of life for deaf and hard-of-hearing children, adolescents, and adults,

and to demonstrate that the arts are vital to human development. "By participating in this Creative Arts Festival the contestant develops self-esteem, family pride, public awareness, creative awareness, and recognition on an international basis," said **Cecilia Strejc**, Director of Creative Arts at the Center.

The five winning students were among 34 entrants from Mill Neck Manor. Back in January, students in the elementary and high-school programs submitted their best artwork and writing to the first round of judging (the regional competition). Mill Neck Manor had 12 winners on the regional level: **Vahakn Arslanian**, **Chrissy Laurice**, **Jeffrey Blanco**, Zachary Palisoc, **Nidia Chevez**, Kristen Piersa, Charmaine Konoski, Lisa Sudmann, Joseph Malone, **Jennifer Ayque**, **Sky Samuel**, and **Denise Walch**. Each regional winner received a monetary award, a ribbon, and a certificate. Their entries then moved to the International competition.

"All the children who participated are winners and we are very proud of them," said art teacher **Dorann Lyon**. During a special awards assembly held at Mill Neck Manor, each child received a certificate for competing.

LOGICAL CHAMPS

On April 7, a team of five Fanwood students captured first place in an academic Math Bowl sponsored by the American School for the Deaf. Competing against 9 other teams representing schools from New England through the Mid-Atlantic states,, the students had to answer questions involving algebra, probability, logic, and geometry. The championship team: **Robert Faithful** (Poughkeepsie); **Jennifer Labriola** (Yonkers); Chris Sewell (Pleasantville); **Jeanette Vincent** (New Rochelle); and **T.J. Wakefield** (Mahopac). They were coached by high-school math teachers **Donna Shubert** Gaspar (Montrose) and **Yvonne Davis-Talley** (Eastchester).

UPCOMING CONFERENCES, CONVENTIONS & FESTIVALS

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

The American Sign Language Festival Project will hold its second annual ASL Festival™ on Saturday, November 12 (Veterans' Day Weekend), at the Fairplex Exposition Center in Pomona, California.*

This year's all-day Festival will have plenty of room. Building 6 & 7, the adjacent outdoor plaza, and the Ballroom provide over 100,000 square feet of space for the "Deaf Expo" (8 a.m.-6:30 p.m.): art, technology, and other exhibits; food and beverage sales; children's activities; a Mini-Health Fair; seminars and presentations. "Deaf Extravagant Night" (6:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.), an optional social program, stars

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Bernard Bragg, internationally-acclaimed Deaf actor, mime, and comedian, in "Only In Our World." There will also be a DJ, music, "visual lighting music show," cash bar, catered dinner buffet, and "great door prizes."

The ASL Festival is open to the general public. All Deaf Expo seminars and presentations will be voice-interpreted for the benefit of hearing attendees.

This year's Corporate Sponsors are AT&T Telecommunications Relay, Bank of America, General Motors, and the Greater Los Angeles Council on Deafness (GLAD).

The ASL Festival Project (a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization) has contracted with Eye Festival Communications to market and publicize the ASL Festival. **Ramy Bustamante**, President of PYRAMerica Enterprise, who coordinated last year's Festival, says the 1994 plan is geared toward attracting at least 10,000 people with at least 150 exhibit spaces and an expanded entertainment and presentation program that celebrates the community's vibrant Deaf Culture.

For ticket information, call the ASL Festival Hotline at ☎(818) 760-3352, contact **Peggy Hughes** at Magnolia Travel at ☎800-376-3178 (TTY/Voice), or write to the ASL Festival Project at 4717 Laurel Canyon Boulevard, Suite 210, North Hollywood, CA 91607-3944; ❐(818) 760-3391 (FAX).

*See "And thousands came: A closeup view of the ASL Festival," September 1993 "News Briefs," pp. 11-13. Last year's ASL Festival was held in Glendale on Saturday, July 17.

SOMETHING FOR THE ORALISTS

Alexander Graham Bell did more than just invent the telephone. He prided himself on being a teacher of the deaf, and, in 1890, he founded the American Association for the Promotion of the Teaching of Speech to the Deaf, now called the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf. Its headquarters are in Washington, D.C., where Bell's archives of materials related to deaf people and education are housed in the historic Volta Bureau.

Bell's mission remains alive more than 100 years later as AGBAD, now an international organization, continues to promote and encourage the use of spoken language, lipreading, and residual hearing by deaf and hard-of-hearing adults and children. As part of its ongoing efforts, AGBAD is holding *Toward Full Participation: Communication, Education, and Technology*, a biennial international convention, at the Riverside Convention Center in Rochester, New York, from June 28 to July 2.

Communication, education, and technology all are critical° for full participation in society, particularly for deaf and hard-of-hearing people. The 5-day convention will kick off with presentations that address how the ADA can affect access to their communication, education, and technology. Lectures, round-table discussions, poster sessions, "hands-on" activities, panels, and video-theater showings will present issues that concern all deaf and hard-of-hearing people or those who work with them. Communication effectiveness will be emphasized at the convention, as well as educational quality and access to the most recent technological developments "in the field of hearing impairment."

An exciting addition to this year's program is the day-long *Technology Symposium*, offered for those who wish to observe state-of-the-art communication and education technology in depth. The day-long *Volta Academy* for professionals will also be offered. A banquet, association luncheon, and side trips to western New York attractions round out the activities.

The convention is a wonderful forum for parents of deaf and hard-of-hearing children to share their experiences and knowledge. Children and teens are most welcome. A full complement of child-care and field-trip programs is available for infants to 18-year-olds.

For more information, contact **Brooke Rigler** or **Nola Kende**, AGBAD, 3417 Volta Place, NW, Washington, D.C. 20007, ☎(202) 337-5220 (TTY/Voice); ❐(202) 337-8314 (FAX).

critical: vitally important.

GETTING TOUGH

A regional conference on HIV-prevention training, sponsored by Intercommunity Action, Inc. (Interac) in cooperation with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for service providers in the fields of mental health, mental retardation, deafness, and hearing impairment, will be held September 12-14 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. To receive registration materials, call Interac at ☎(215) 487-0905, or fax your name and address to ❐(215) 487-3716, Attn.: Special Needs Conference. Address: Intercommunity Action, Inc., 6012 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128.

OASIS OF SANITY

Dr. **Barbara A. Brauer** has been appointed first director of the Community Counseling and Mental Health Clinic (CCMHC) at Gallaudet University. The CCMHC is a collaborative venture involving the Departments of Counseling, Psychology, and Social Work, and the Gallaudet Research Institute. The CCMHC will increase training opportunities for future mental-health professionals, coordinate research on mental health and deafness, and provide training and service to the community. This on-site training opportunity will greatly benefit the graduate students and enhance the degree programs. The Center will be housed in the new Gallaudet University Conference Center, scheduled to open next March.

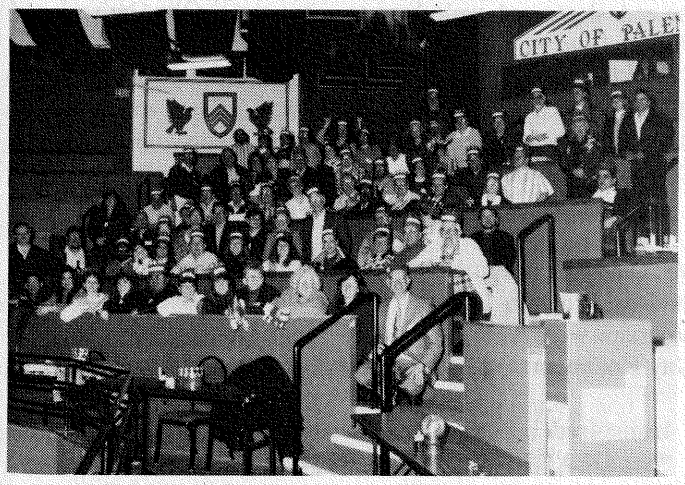
Dr. Brauer, who began her responsibilities as Director on May 2, is a professor in Gallaudet's Department of Counseling and a research scientist in the Gallaudet Research Institute. She's also an experienced clinician in the field of mental health and deafness, and brings great skill and knowledge to her new position. For the past four years, she's been involved in the planning process for the new center. Until the new

building opens next year, her work will focus on establishing relationships with community agencies, on setting up training and research procedures with the cooperating departments, on seeking external sources of funding, and on planning for the use of the new facilities.

The CCMHC represents a unique cross-disciplinary approach to mental-health training, research, and service, in that it coordinates the efforts of several departments, and also has a focus on the needs of deaf and hard-of-hearing clients. Because the CCMHC is a cross-school activity, the Center will report administratively through Graduate Studies and Research. Dr. **Michael A. Karchmer**, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, has assumed administrative oversight for the Center.

It's an exciting development for the University and has the potential for national impact. That this has finally become a reality is due to the sustained efforts over four years of a planning committee involving a great number of people, especially from the Departments of Counseling, Psychology, and Social Work, and the Gallaudet Research Institute. Deans **Robert L. Williams** of the College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Karchmer, and **David S. Martin** of the School of Education and Human Services, have worked closely with the committee in the conceptualization of this cross-disciplinary plan.—**Steven T. Hardy**

FINGERS BEFORE FORKS



Wearing their royal-blue "personalized" crowns, a happy group of attendees gets together after the "Medieval Times" banquet and tournament for a photo. (Darlene Sarnouski)

Over 140 people, including delegates from various Northeastern states and some visitors, attended the National Association of the Deaf Region One Conference during the weekend of March 18-20, at the Woodbridge Hilton in Iselin, New Jersey.

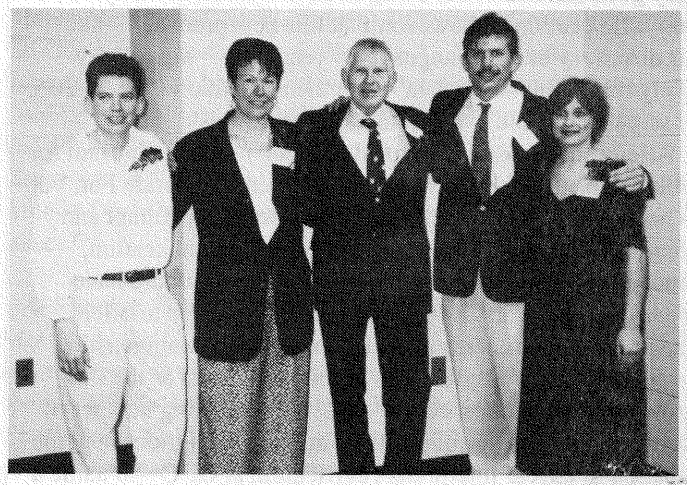
Some 40 delegates attended meetings led by NAD Region One Board members **Sue Pedersen** and **Hubert Anderson**. Two workshops were offered. Dr. **Gertie Galloway**, Superintendent of the Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf, presented "Inclusion and the Bill of Rights for a Deaf Child" (a *very* hot topic) to a full room. And **Michael Schwartz**, a well-known Deaf attorney from New York, presented "ADA: How to Yell For Help."

The New Jersey Association of the Deaf hosted an offbeat "special event" for attendees. Over 80 people attended a "Medieval Times" banquet and show. Everyone had a wonderful time even though (or because) there were no utensils (forks, spoons, or table knives). They ate with their hands, medieval-style, while watching a tournament—six knights riding their horses into the center of the showroom, then jousting. Afterwards, everyone gathered for a group photo.

The conference was sponsored by AT&T, Merrill Lynch, North Jersey Community Center of the Deaf, and Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The next Biennial Region One Conference will be held in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 1996. It'll be hosted by the Virginia Association of the Deaf.

—Reported by **Darlene A. Sarnouski,** Chair, Region One Conference Committee, NJAD

WELL WORTH THE WAIT



Left to right: **Patricia Trowbridge, Eileen Forestal, Dr. William Stokoe, Alan Barwiolek, and Kathy Ferjon.**

Nine years ago, about 60 people trickled in. This year, more than 450 ASL devotees flocked to the American Sign Language Festival, which took place on Saturday, April 16, at Union County College (UCC) in Cranford, New Jersey. Deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing people of all ages, races, and socio-economic backgrounds, gathered together for a full day of celebrating the culture and language of Deaf people—and celebrate they did.

The Festival, which was sponsored by the UCC Student Interpreters Group Network (S.I.G.N.) Club under the guidance of **Eileen Forestal**, Director of the Interpreters for

the Deaf and the Deaf Studies Program, and **Alan R. Barwiolek**, professor and advisor, got off to an energetic start. By noon, the room was buzzing with motion as old friends and colleagues mingled with new. Visitors made their way around the balloon-bedecked Commons, stopping at various tables to learn about organizations for the deaf and deaf-blind, and the latest communication products available, or to purchase such items as storytelling videos, jewelry, and clothing.

At 1:00 p.m., the crowd was ushered into the auditorium for a welcome from Forestal, Barwiolek, and **Chuck Clark**, President of the S.I.G.N. Club, all of whom spoke briefly on UCC's growing ASL-studies and Interpreters for the Deaf programs.

The rest of the day operated quite smoothly on what Barwiolek affectionately referred to as "Deaf Standard Time": just a few minutes—well, maybe more than a few—behind schedule. But what transpired° was well worth waiting for. The first speaker of the day was Dr. **William C. Stokoe**, the legendary retired Gallaudet University professor who was the first to recognize and document ASL as a full and complete language independent of English.* At the start of his provocative° talk on "Gesture and Nature of Language," Dr. Stokoe promised to give the audience "another reason for being proud of ASL." He went on to credit sign language with the creation of all language. In fact, he said, "the hand, eye, and brain are very good candidates for being in on the invention of syntax."° He cautioned, however, that this new premise°—like his discovery of Deaf language 35 years ago—would most likely be met by skepticism° from the academic world. In 20 or so years, he said, we would all see if he was right.

After a short break, the crowd returned to the auditorium for **Mike Kemp's** spirited discussion, entitled "Celebrate For, For What—ASL, PAH!" Kemp, an international consultant and chair of Gallaudet's Department of Sign Communication, touched on the many inroads° ASL and Deaf Culture have made over the years. He encouraged the audience to offer examples of the success of ASL. It was like a chain reaction as people stood and cited such accomplishments as the growing academic respect for ASL, the increasing number of Deaf people in powerful positions at Deaf institutions, and the creation of a Deaf Interpreters curriculum at UCC—to name a few. But, Kemp warned, there's still a long road ahead. He followed with anecdotes° from his travels abroad about the injustices borne by the Deaf communities in other countries. His point was clear: "Don't sit back and be complacent.° We have to continue to fight for acceptance of our language."

The momentum° was still going strong for the final speaker of the afternoon, **Patrice Joyner**, the first Black Deaf person to serve on the Board of Trustees at the Lexington School for the Deaf in Jackson Heights, New York, a founder and former president of the New York City Black Deaf Advocates, and a residential counselor for the New York Society of the Deaf at Tanya Towers Community Residence for the Deaf and Deaf/Blind. Joyner began her discussion, "Black Deaf Culture," by relating her experiences as a young Deaf Black girl who never wanted to be on the outside. Her spirited and proactive approach to life came shining through: "I'm a fighter," she said. "I go to the top if I have to." When asked how she would define a good role model, she explained that there are many role models in the community, and you know one when you see one. It all depends on what you're looking for. "I always tell kids, 'It's all right to be different.'"

One audience member asked Joyner if she feels frustrated being Black, Deaf, and a woman—a triple-minority billing that could potentially expose her to triple biases. She responded with a resounding "No!": "I don't want to be hearing. I'm Deaf, I'm successful, and I'm happy."

The evening program opened with performance by the Onyx Theatre Company. Four Black women, two Deaf and two hearing, performed a selection from *Black Women's Stories: One Deaf Experience*. It was the moving tale of a mother and daughter both struggling to discover their pride.

Mike Kemp then returned to delight the audience with his version of "Cinderella." This young Deaf woman was on her way to an NJAD dance to meet the president's son. Was she donning° glass slippers? No way! She could sign pure ASL only with the aid of her (you guessed it) glass gloves. And the magical wand that transformed her into a princess was no ordinary wand. Instead of a star, it was topped with—what else?—the famous "I love you" handshape. (By the way, Mike, many UCC students are wondering where they can get a pair of those gloves.)

Patrice Joyner then wrapped up the evening with an intriguing story about a seamstress and a baker. Intriguing indeed: Joyner left the story unfinished. If we wanted to know the end, she teased, we'd have to come and see the Onyx Theatre Company's ***Love Thy Enemy***.

By 11 p.m., the 1994 ASL Festival had officially come to a close. But even after the last balloon was deflated and the last streamer torn down, a few stragglers remained signing in the Commons of UCC.

We took that as a good sign. See you next year.

—Jacqueline Davidson

Ms. Davidson is a first-year student in UCC's Interpreters for the Deaf Program. Interpreters for the day and evening programs were **Kathy Ferejohn**, **Peggy Hannis**, **Steve Hess**, **Gay Koennemann**, **Kymme Van Cleef**, and **Molly Wilson**.

transpired: occurred, came to pass.

*See **DEAF LIFE**, January 1993 cover story by **Jane Maher**, continued in the February and April 1993 issues.

provocative: arousing interest.

syntax: the way words are put together to form phrases and sentences; the grammatical structure of language.

premise: assumption; theory; basis for a logical argument.

skepticism: suspicion; distrust.

inroads: advances.

anecdotes: brief true stories.

complacent: smug; too content; self-satisfied.

momentum: speed; force gained by movement.

donning: putting on (clothing, shoes, or ornaments).

WHAT'S DOING IN SOUTHERN FLORIDA

News and announcements from United Hearing & Deaf Services, Inc.:

❖ **Their Wish List:** Because so many people have indicated a desire to help UHDS by donating items, the staff has developed the following "wish list."* If you have any of these items, or other items that you feel may be useful to UHDS, call **Nancy Weintraub**, Director of Special Projects, at ☎(305) 731-7203 (TTY/Voice) or ❒(305) 485-6336 (FAX).

Educational: Sign-language books for students and teachers.

Office supplies: Copier/collator, laser-jet printers, Aldus PageMaker, network package (IBM or compatible system and software), calculators with printers, 8-1/2" x 11" copier paper, typewriters.

Furnishings: file cabinets, executive furniture, wastebaskets, small wooden tables, card tables, folding chairs, child-sized furniture, carpeting.

Appliances: TV/VCR, microwave oven, refrigerator, toaster-oven, coffee urn, Insta-Hot Water Dispenser, vacuum cleaners.

Games & stuff: indoor games for ages 5-21, art supplies, books, toys, and games for all ages.

Audiological: Hearing aids for children and adults, loop systems, Comtek or other portable assistive-listening devices, otoscope.

Etcetera: Bathroom supplies, silk plants, landscaping.

Editors' note: For those who **don't live in the Broward County area—your local community-based/grassroots agency serving Deaf and hard-of-hearing people may have a similar "wish list." Contact yours and ask.*

❖**Volunteers wanted!** UHDS is in need of volunteers...*

Receptionists: People who like people, are friendly and outgoing, are needed to assist with the distribution of equipment for deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

Office/Clerical: People to do light office work, such as filing, light typing, cataloging and organizing a library, and answering phones.

Telephone Receptionists: People who speak clearly, are good at answering telephones, taking messages, and typing. Knowledge of sign language helpful, but not required.

Home Visitor: Someone to make home visits. Must know sign language and have her/his own transportation.

Projects: People who like working with others, who enjoy coordinating various activities, with good follow-through.

Interested? Call Suzanne Jean, Special Projects Coordinator, at the above number.

**Editors' note: Once again, your local community-based agency may need volunteers, too. Why not ask?*

❖ **Songs, signs, & Starlight:** NationsBank, the Parks and Recreation Department of Fort Lauderdale, and UHDS have joined together to provide sign-interpreted performances of the "NationsBank Starlight Musical Concerts." Seven of these have been selected for June, July, and August to feature an Artistic ASL Interpreter. Each concert is held on a Friday night between 7:30 and 9:30 p.m., in Holiday Park at East Sunrise Boulevard and U.S. 1. Admission and parking for all concerts is free. Schedule:

June 17	The Coasters (Oldies)
July 8	Trick Rider with Sugar and Lace (Country)
July 15	The Aristocrats (Big Band)
July 22	The Fabulons (Oldies)
August 5	Dana Paul (Contemporary)
August 12	The Five Boroughs (Oldies)
August 19	Tommy Mercer (Big Band)

For more information about interpreted concerts, call Nancy Weintraub at UHDS, or **Marie Rock**, Special Events, Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Fort Lauderdale, at ☎(305) 761-5360 (Voice).

❖ **Super talk:** May was Better Hearing & Speech Month. As part of its month-long celebration, UHDS held its Annual Dinner Meeting at The Westin Hotel-Cypress Creek on May 12. Guest speaker was Dr. **Katherine A. Jankowski**, Ph.D., Superintendent of he Central North Carolina School for the Deaf in Greensboro, a school well-known for its innovation and advocacy. The next morning, she gave a free lecture-discussion at UHDS on "Leadership and Empowerment Among Deaf People, Deaf Education, and Deaf Women's Issues."

❖ **Sharing "Double Pride":** UHDS held its Annual Meeting at the Cypress Creek on May 16. Guests were treated to an interesting and entertaining presentation by guest speaker **Sheila Jacobs**, a licensed Marriage Family Child Counselor in California. She spoke on "Double Pride," a concept addressing the bicultural issues affecting Deaf people in America.

The evening was highlighted by the installation of Officers and Directors of the Board, conducted by Circuit Judge **Mark Speiser**. Officers for 1994-1995 are: **Terrell Speiser**, President; **Herbert Fradin**, Vice President; **Kenneth Moore**, Treasurer; and **Rachel Novick**, Secretary. Directors: **Alexandra Danburg**, **Randi Grossman**, **Ira Lerner**, **Allen O'Neal**, **Joe Rauchwerger**, and **Lawrence Schuval**.

Anyone interested in joining the UHDS Board of Directors should contact Ms. Speiser at UHDS. The Board meets at 5:30 on the third Tuesday of each month at UHDS, 2800 W. Oakland Park Boulevard, Suite 306, Oakland Park, Florida 33311.

❖ **Well done:** On May 21, UHDS sponsored a Roast of County Commissioner **Lori Parrish**. The "fun event of the season" featured Yellow Feathers Band, a caricaturist, popcorn/peanut/cotton-candy guest vendors, elephant and carousel rides, and a "celebrity circus." Roasters included Port Commissioner **Mary Ann Gray**, Swap Shop owner **Preston Henn**, Lauderhill Mayor **Ilene Lieberman**, prominent attorney **Ed Pozzuoli**, **Ron Ishoy** of the **Miami Herald**, and Yellow Feathers.

❖ **A different kind of team training:** UHDS' Drug-Free Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Communities Program, in conjunction with the Southeast Regional Drug-Free Schools and Communities Center (a part of the University of Louisville, Kentucky), provided a free team-building training program at the Holiday Inn-Fort Lauderdale West Hotel and Conference Center, from June 3-5. It focused on the needs of deaf and hard-of-hearing children in Broward County.

Participants included parents, teachers, interpreters, school administrators, social workers, law-enforcement officers, substance-abuse treatment and prevention professionals, community agencies, clergy, members of the press, volunteers, and deaf and hard-of-hearing adults. Co-sponsors were Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association, Inc.; Broward County Public Schools; Broward County Commission on Substance Abuse; Broward County Sheriff's Office; U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, Demand Reduction Section; and Broward Youth Prevention Program.

"A PERFECT MARRIAGE": ASL DICTIONARY ON DISK

Now that CD-ROM and electronic interactive media are finally accessible and affordable for a mass market, HarperCollins has launched a new imprint, HarperReference Interactive, which has begun producing software and CD-ROMS for the consumer. Many of the early products will be based on or packaged with books published by HarperReference.

The first in a new line of multimedia products from HarperReference ids **The American Sign Language Dictionary on CD-ROM**, a CD-ROM work including 2,500 signs based on the revised editions of **The American Sign Language Dictionary** by **Martin Sternberg**, which HarperReference publishes. Sternberg is a renowned authority on ASL, and the dictionary series has been a steady seller for HarperReference for more than 13 years. **The American Sign Language Dictionary on CD-ROM** was co-developed with Ellipsis Multimedia Corporation for HarperReference.

"American Sign Language is the third most common language in the United States and is an international language standard," said **Carol Cohen**, Vice President and Publisher of HarperReference. "In eight states, students can now study ASL as an accepted foreign-language equivalency. The timing couldn't be better for such an educational and reference tool as this CD-ROM package."

Nancy Dickenson, Vice President and Director of New Media for HarperCollins Adult Trade Group, added: "If ever there was a perfect marriage between book publishing and CD-ROM technology, **The American Sign Language Dictionary on CD-ROM** is it. This is an exemplary° use of the technology, which through sight, sound, as well as text, makes it easier and faster to learn ASL."

The dictionary-on-disk weaves together video, animation, and text to provide the reader with a cutting-edge reference resource. It's designed to provide precise views of the hand movements and facial expressions that are critical components° in the learning of ASL. Users can select slow motion or zoom-in for a more precise view of hand and finger movements; drill and practice games test sign recognition and retention. Other features include electronic text searching, fingerspelling, animated spelling, optional audio for hearing users, and four foreign-language lexicons—Spanish, French, German, and Italian—which are linked to all video, text, and animation entries. The disk will be available for use with both Macintosh and Windows personal computers.

exemplary: outstanding; serving as an example of excellence.

critical components: absolutely vital parts.

PERSONAL CAPTION-MONITORS & OTHER THEATRICAL DELIGHTS

On April 28, Arena Stage Executive Director **Stephen Richard** announced the award of a $35,000 grant from Philip Morris to continue and enhance the theater's groundbreaking efforts to make performances accessible to deaf and hard-of-hearing patrons. Arena will be the first theater in the country to test the newest technology for captioning using personal monitors. Other initiatives° will include upgrading sign-language interpretation, infrared listening systems, and script-lending plans, as well as reduced ticket prices for deaf students.

"Arena Stage views accessibility issues as central to its mission to create inclusive new partnerships that reflect the true diversity of our community," said Arena Artistic Director **Douglas C. Wager**. "We are honored that Philip Morris has chosen Arena to be part of its 35th Anniversary Arts Celebration Initiative with this generous grant."

The expanded Deaf Access Program will add one important new dimension: testing the newest technology for personal captioning. The people served by this program will be new audience members—usually late-deafened adults and orally-educated deaf children—who do not attend theater because their needs are not met by other access programs. A laptop-

computer-captioning system was successfully tested last season at Arena. The Philip Morris grant will make possible the testing of new technology that provides deaf audience members with a personal monitor using software, developed by the National Center for Accessible Media at WGBH in Boston, which enables the text of a play to be viewed simultaneously with live performance. The pace of the computer-screen dialogue is managed by a hearing person via remote control.

Arena will also significantly augment° its existing offerings to the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities. Specifically, the theater will work with Gallaudet University and the Model Secondary School for the Deaf to make half-price tickets, volunteer-ushering opportunities, internships, post-show discussions, theater tours, and workshops available to the students. To assure the best communication of productions through ASL, the theater will retain the highest-quality interpreters and sign masters to direct interpreter rehearsals. Also, Arena's script-loan and assistive-listening-device programs will be continued, as will the availability of post-show receptions, backstage tours, and other activities to further open the theater experience for deaf audiences.

"The '90s are an exciting yet difficult time for the arts, and we recognize that new programs are necessary for cultural organizations to meet the challenges they are facing," said **Stephanie French**, Vice President of Cultural Affairs and Corporate Contribution, Philip Morris Companies, Inc. "Through this initiative, we are providing arts organizations with the opportunity and resources to reach broader, more diverse° audiences."

For more information on Arena Stage's access programs, contact Access Director **Martha Ingel** at ☎(202) 484-0247 (TTY) or ☎(202) 554-9066 (Voice); ❐(202) 488-4056 (FAX). Address: 6th and Maine Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20024.

initiatives: the first steps or actions; opening moves.
augment: add to; expand; increase.
diverse: varied.

WORKOUTS FOR THE IMAGINATION

Living Stage Theatre Company, the social-outreach theater of Arena Stage, is offering two summer workshops with sign interpretation available as needed for adults who want to enhance their creativity and imaginations. Session I (3 weeks) began May 31 and ends June 16, and Session II (2 weeks) will be conducted June 21-30. Classes are held at the Living Stage Theatre, 1901 14th Street, NW.

Angela Vogler, a former deaf participant in a Living Stage workshop, said: "I cannot describe accurately how I felt about working with the Living Stage Theatre because I learned so much. There were many details of the workshop that I valued but the most important was that I did not feel any prejudice by hearing people in the Living Stage workshop environment. It is a must."

Living Stage Associate Director and master workshop leader **Oran Sandel** is conducting the workshops, under the guidance of Living Stage Founder and Director **Robert A. Alexander**. Using approaches developed over 28 years of work at Living Stage, activities include improvisational character development, movement, storytelling, poetry, and music.

Said Alexander: "The imagination is like a muscle. It must be used constantly if it is to retain the brilliance of its ability to transform! Everyone needs an environment where his or her imagination can be exercised and encouraged, a place where it is safe to live out of your own artistic impulses, to explore, discover, and communicate your deepest feelings and most profound thoughts in a joyous, wondrous, humane, and loving art form."

For more information on fees, or a free brochure on the summer workshops, call the Arena numbers above or ☎(202) 554-9066, extension 240 (Voice).

ENTER THE JUDGES

The New York Deaf Theatre's Sam Edwards Deaf Playwrights Competition Committee has lined up the panel of judges for the 5th Annual Competition. They are: **David Dannenfelser**, teacher, New York Shakespeare Festival Playwrighting in the Schools program; **Andrew Kranis**, literary manager; **Julianna Fjeld**, producer and actress; **Shanny Mow**, playwright and Artistic Director, Fairmount Theatre of the Deaf.

In addition to awarding cash prizes in two categories (full-length and one-act plays), the judges offer each entering playwright invaluable professional feedback and constructive criticism which can be used in the rewriting process to further develop their play. Winning plays are also considered for presentation by NYDT as either a staged reading—***The Hearing Test*** (September 1992), ***A Laying of Hands*** (May 1994), workshop production, or full theatrical production—***The Hearing Test*** and ***25 Cents*** (December 1993).

For the Competition Guidelines and application form, write: New York Deaf Theatre, Ltd., SEDPC, 305 Seventh Avenue, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10001-6008. Deadline for receipt of scripts: September 1. Winners will be announced in January 1995.

NEW TWIST ON A CLASSIC

Fairmount Theatre of the Deaf (FTD) in Cleveland, Ohio, will be re-mounting **Mark Medoff's** critically-acclaimed ***Children of a Lesser God*** for its March 1995 tour. The play was enthusiastically received this past March at the Cleveland Play House, Lakeland Community College (Mentor) and at

FTD Acting Company, 1993. Clockwise, from front: **Brian Kapell, Antoinette Sellick, Rachel Hollander, Ricky Harris, and Stella Antonio.**

Cuyahoga Community College (Cleveland), with FTD performing to nearly-sold-out houses during the month-long performance run. While this tour will primarily focus on the Midwest, FTD plans to expand the 1995-1996 season to include venues° throughout the U.S.

According to FTD, "Despite its undeniable success, ***Children of a Lesser God*** has never been performed, to the best of our knowledge, by a theatre of the deaf." Critics have hailed FTD as being the most qualified to present this work. **Marianne Evett** wrote in **The Plain Dealer** that FTD brings to it "an intensity, a passion and a level of truth that only an ensemble° of deaf and hearing actors used to working together can provide. . . . It helps to have two deaf actors who can speak play the parts of deaf students at the school; they carry a conviction that most productions lose."

Shanny Mow, FTD's Artistic Director and a prominent Deaf professional in the theatre community, stressed the importance of strengthening deaf people's opportunities in society: "Well-meaning as it may be, the mentality of hearing people in ***Children of a Lesser God*** is very much alive.* A society so accustomed to the acquisition° of information through the ear cannot conceive [of] the idea that one can function without the faculty of speaking through the mouth.

"***Children of a Lesser God*** is not about the conflict between the deaf and the hearing, not between sign language and speech, but about two people in love. They are victims of their backgrounds, children of their cultures. We all are. We heal."

Background: Formed in 1975 by one Deaf and one hearing actor, FTD continues to work toward bringing accessible theatre to all audiences, as one of only three professional deaf-and-hearing theatre companies in the United States. In less than 20 years, FTD has achieved success in a variety of areas: educational-outreach programs, residencies throughout the U.S., and now a revived mainstage series. FTD has earned well-deserved recognition for its talents and efforts in a shared theatre experience, having toured internationally to such countries as Russia, Jordan, and Czechoslovakia, and having won the prestigious Ohio Governor's Award for Arts Outreach. It continues to bridge the gap between Deaf and Hearing cultures with art.

For more information, contact Assistant Manager **Kian Guan-Au** or Booking Manager/Public Relations Specialist **Lynette Urankar** at ☎(216) 229-2838 (TTY/Voice).

venues: specific sites of performances (theaters, auditoriums, etc.).

ensemble: theatrical troupe; group of performers.

*The play is set in the early 1970s, when modern Deaf Culture was just beginning to flourish.

acquisition: getting; obtaining.

"UNIQUELY TEXAS"

Imagination Celebration Fort Worth (ICFW) hosted its sixth annual "Celebration Week" at the Will Rogers Complex, April 6-13.* More than 40,000 local students attended performances, exhibits, demonstrations, and workshops given by performers and artists of local and national acclaim, which showcased the activities coordinated year-round in area schools through ICFW.

Originally part of an arts-outreach program of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, ICFW has blossomed into a strong partnership between local arts organizations and educators to provide students of all ages with unique, hands-on cultural-arts experiences as part of standard classroom curricula. ICFW is recognized as a national model for arts in education by the Kennedy Center and the U.S. Department of Education.

In late March, **Ginger Head**, ICFW Executive Director, said this year's Celebration Week took special meaning due to Fort Worth's recent designation as "All-America City." "The Fort Worth community's desire and ability to sustain a wide range of arts organizations was a strong factor in our being named 'All-America City.' And it is a major reason why Imagination Celebration has been able to continue providing unique cultural-arts experiences every year, year-round, for more than 90,000 students."

For the third consecutive year, ICFW hosted more than 650 Deaf and hard-of-hearing students from across the state of Texas. On their itinerary:° **Phyllis Frelich** in her one-woman ASL performance of ***Lolly Foster's Daredevil Air Show***.† and a visit to Fort Worth's Carswell Air Force Base for a private, real-life air demonstration given by locally-based Confederate

Air Force pilots, and tour of the F-16 Wing. There were also visits to the "Dinosaurs of Jurassic Park" exhibit at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, and a dance exclusively for the deaf students. They also attended a variety of Celebration Week workshops and performances, including several conducted by leading deaf achievers of national stature, including:

Kelsey Marshall, Director of Accessibility for the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (D.C.). She has dedicated her career to advocating accessibility for deaf and handicapped persons.

Jimmy Turner, who, as the son of a radio celebrity, has devoted his life to dance and the arts. He was the first deaf artist to be selected by the Texas Commission on the Arts as an Artist in Education.

Ms. Head said that the deaf students eagerly awaited their yearly visit to Fort Worth for Celebration Week, as many were from rural communities where opportunities to get together were limited. This was "an exciting opportunity for deaf students to be included in a very large gathering of youths like them and to cultivate friendships and memories that last a lifetime."

In 1992, Imagination Celebration received an award from Texas Parents and Educators of the Deaf, for outstanding service to the deaf citizens of Texas.

Other highlights of this year's Celebration Week:

➳ The opening performance of the first-ever Kennedy Center (Washington, D.C.) national tour, ***The Red Badge of Courage***, a stage production of the Stephen Crane classic about a boy coming of age during the Civil War. The play was directed by nationally-acclaimed stage and screen actor **Richard Thomas**, who starred in the 1970 film version of the novel. A workshop followed.

➳ A special public family concert, "Blues, Boleros and Breakdowns: Texas Women in Traditional Music," celebrating the diversity of Texas culture with a broad spectrum of musical styles ranging from country-western to Mexican-influenced Tejano. Sponsored by Texas Folklife Resources and the Texas Commission on the Arts, this was a star-studded triple-bill featuring the old-style Texas fiddling of Valerie Ryals Morris, the soulful, blues-driven guitar work of Lady Pearl Johnson, and accordionist Eva Ybarra's colorful Latin conjunto stylings. There were also performances by Native American and Asian-American folk dancers. The next day, "Blues, Boleros and Breakdowns" performed for more than 2,000 area students enrolled in Spanish and/or Texas History classes. "This celebration of Texas folklife and music [gave] students something they can more closely identify with because it is uniquely *Texas*," said Head.

➳ A day-long Multicultural Youth Exchange celebration, designed as a continuation of Fort Worth Mayor Kay Granger's Youth Summit held in February. More than 650 local youths listened to speeches given by Claus Nobel, of the family that founded the Nobel Peace Prize; Fort Worth Councilmen Jim Lane and Rev. McKinley Jackson; (Native) American Indian leader Ben Tomakera, the great-grandson of Quanah Parker; Judge Manuel Valdez; and Asian Chamber of Commerce president Peter Udeschi. Nobel spoke to the youths about "United Earth's" newly-created Earth Service Award for Youth. The other speakers shared their experiences and discussed the importance of crossing the barriers of race and culture through understanding and respect.

The students broke into discussion groups and viewed a variety of multicultural performances, including an Australian Digereedo player and a performance of the "Hoop Dance" by Kevin Locke, a Lakota of the Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota, a popular lecturer and storyteller who performed a combination of music, dance, juggling, and acrobatic acts. He used 28 hoops to tell the story of the unification of humanity.

Head's pre-Celebration Week comment: "Words aren't always the best tool for communication. In this context, we feel the arts have an inherent value in bridging gaps between the different cultures in our community. Without music, art, literature, we could not completely understand the human condition. The arts also create a greater sense of understanding and awareness through artistic means. A lot of cultural intolerance in our community stems largely from a fear of the unknown. But when you bring thoughtful young minds from all over our community together to try to understand one another, you take a strong step in the right direction."

➳ Hip Pocket Theatre presented ***The Nose Show***, a Harlequinade with music featuring characters from the *commedia dell'arte*, a form of improvised° comedy and which originated during the Renaissance. This was followed by an interactive mime workshop.

➳ Ballet Folklorico de Azteca, an energetic performance highlighting Mayan and Aztec interpretations of dance and music as influenced by European culture, and its development over time. This performance showed the Hispanic influence on Texas culture.

The Hip Pocket Theatre and Ballet Folklorico de Azteca performances were given exclusively for Celebration Week audiences on the site of the new Performing Arts Center in Downtown Fort Worth, now under construction.

➳ Imaginarium II: "The Cardsharps." A 300-year-old Caravaggio painting came to life in a special theatrical performance given by veteran stage actor David Yeakle. Students attended a workshop on 15th-century *commedia dell'arte*.

➳ At the Hawk's Well, a local mime company, presented "Themes of Discovery," a visual interpretation of the poetry and prose of Ogden Nash and Shel Silverstein, utilizing the art of music, narration, and mime under a backdrop of colorful hand-painted slides. Included a performance and a music, voice, and pantomime workshop.

➳ Story Patch Players in ***Home Run***. Participatory theatre for young children. An entertaining baseball story featuring poems, short stories, and song. It stressed the importance of cooperation, team play, and fairness in athletics.

➳ Phillip Hii Classical Guitar. Texas Commission on the Arts presented the internationally-known Malaysian classical

guitarist, for high-school students. He provided an explanation of each of the selections, which included South American and Flamenco pieces.

➳ Shakespeare in the Park. Excerpts from ***Macbeth*** allowed students to observe a professional acting company at work and to experience the power of communication of Shakespearean verse in both classical and contemporary forms.

➳ Contemporary Dance Fort Worth. Performance and workshop. Dance-company members and instructors demonstrated the basic techniques and creative movements of modern dance, providing students with the opportunity to enhance their creativity, develop motor coordination, and learn to make aesthetic judgements. Classes were designed to increase students' appreciation for dance as an expressive art form.

➳ Artist Workshops included photography, Styrofoam print, collage, crane making, clay, rubber-stamp, mixed media, drawing, 3-dimensional art, relief sculpture, various dance techniques, tap dancing, and Texas folk art.

Background: Founded locally in 1986, ICFW is funded through a broad base of community, corporate, and private support.

* See "Arts+ Education = 'Celebration Week,'" **DEAF LIFE Plus**, June 1993, pp. 22-25.

improvised: not performed from a script, created offhand, using available props, etc.

itinerary: tour schedule; travel plan.

† See "Of Flights and Fights," December 1993 "News Briefs," pp. 11-12.

SHORT TAKES

✌ **Full participation encouraged: Linda Bove** (of ***Sesame Street*** fame) brought her ASL production of ***Sign Me a Story*** to the Deaf West Theatre from the Kennedy Center, where it enthralled° both deaf and hearing audiences last year. It ran May 13-29.

Sign Me a Story is intended for younger audiences. The cast of three actors (two Deaf and one hearing voicer) offer a highly interactive show that includes sign-language games, improvisations, anecdotes about Deaf culture and people who "talk with their hands." Parents can participate with their children whether they are deaf or hearing. It includes a new version of the classic fairy tale "The Three Little Pigs" and the poem "Casey at the Bat."

Bove is best known for her long-time role on ***Sesame Street***. She has appeared in both the Broadway and National Touring Companies of ***Children of a Lesser God***, as well as in the film. She's written two **Sesame Street** books, **Sign Language Fun** and **Sign Language ABC**, and garnered° awards for the recent video release of ***Sign Me a Story***. A Deaf West director, she recently produced ***One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*** and ***His Wife***.

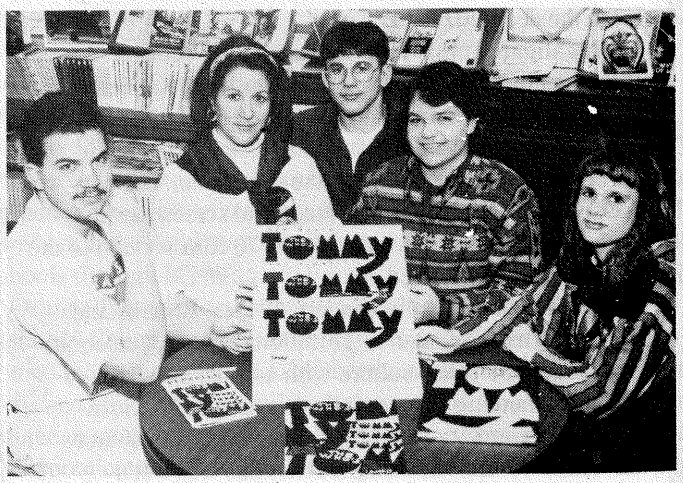
enthralled: holding their complete attention; delighted.

garnered: collected; earned (an honor or award).

✌ **Best in the house:** Special seats for the Philadelphia Drama Guild's performance of Shakespeare's ***Othello*** on April 30 at the Zellerbach Theatre, benefited Creative Access' sign-language-interpreters' fund. This was the first in a collaborative effort to raise money to continue making plays at the Annenberg Theaters and around the Delaware Valley accessible to Deaf and hard-of-hearing people. **Julie Marothy** and **Teri Shambough** were the interpreters for ***Othello***; Carolyn Brick was dramatic-sign-language coach.

Two interpreters and one dramatic-sign-language coach typically need 6 to 8 weeks' rehearsal time, and can charge a total of $1,500 a performance. Creative Access hoped to raise enough money, at this benefit, to help interpret another show later this season.

Backgrounds: For 10 years, the Philadelphia Drama Guild has been interpreting one performance of each play every season. Creative Access sponsors sign-interpreted plays, open-captioned (English-subtitled) movies, sign-language theatre, and other Deaf performances.



SSSD students and their teacher pose with souvenirs of the rock opera/Broadway play *Tommy*. From left: **student Tony Bielucke; Gail O'Rourke, instructor and trip organizer; students Joey Kolcun, Stacey Scarba, and Jessica Raub.**

✌ **A day to remember:** On February 2, 34 students and 13 staff members of the Scranton State School for the Deaf High School spent a day in New York City to see the sights (Battery Park, the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, South Street Seaport) and attend an interpreted performance of the rock opera-turned-Broadway play, ***Tommy***, at the St. James Theatre. They arrived a chartered bus and had a pre-performance dinner at a Korean restaurant (a "new experience" for them). The visit was part of an ongoing project by SSSD teachers to expose them students to deaf characters and how they are portrayed in literature, drama, and movies. (***Tommy***

is about a deaf pinball wizard—actually, the original late-'60s lyrics describe him as "deaf, dumb, and blind.") It was funded by a $1,500 mini-grant from the Arts in Special Education Project of Pennsylvania (which was established through the combined efforts of the bureaus of Special Education and Curriculum and Instruction of the Pennsylvania Department of Education). Everyone had a good time, and teacher **Gail O'Rourke** said, "It was a great experience for the students to see a Broadway play."

After their return, **John Corkill**, SSSD Media Specialist, challenged O'Rourke's High School Language Class to write a story for **The Silent News** about their experience. **Tony Bielucke**, **Jessica Raub**, **Joey Kolcun**, **Stacey Scarba**, and **Wanetta Stroud** analyzed their trip, learned to write a lead, gathered quotes, and studied other published articles. They worked together to organize their thoughts as they committed them to paper. The experience helped them break down the task of writing a feature story for a newspaper into small, understandable parts. Stacey Scarba's report was selected and sent to **The Silent News**.

RUSSKI-YANKEE YUKS, SEE?

On April 11, Russian comedian **Yakov Smirnoff** made history with the release of his ***What A Country*** comedy video. It marked the first time a closed-captioned video has been sold by direct mail.

He says: "When I first came to America, I had a disability; I was not able to communicate because of the language barrier. Also, my father has recently developed hearing complications. That, coupled with my experience, made me compassionate for the hearing-impaired [*sic*]. I am impressed with America's support for people with disabilities. When you address a letter to Russia, the country is listed first, the city second, followed by the street, and the name comes last. It is nice to live in a country where people come first."

What A Country was filmed live earlier this year in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Clyde Records and Tapes, owned by country comedian **Ray Stevens**, is marketing the video. Said Stevens: "This is one of the very few comedy videos I know of that an entire family can watch together. Not only does Yakov have a unique 'take' on America, he has the gift to help us laugh at ourselves and make us appreciate our country."

"PHONE PAL" FOUNDER HONORED

On April 21, **Kathy Walters**, founder of the TDD Phone Pals program of East Texas, was awarded the JCPenney Golden Rule Award at the Women's Building in Tyler.* This program consists of deaf volunteers who make test calls to the 9-1-1 answering points in Smith and surrounding counties.

At the Golden Rule Awards Ceremony. Left to right: **Kathy Walters; Julie Blakeman; Juan Licea of The Castle; Dee Allen; and Bob Gentry of JCPenney.**

These test calls help train the 9-1-1 dispatchers in how to communicate with TTY users.

Walters, who is deaf, was concerned about the ability of her local 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) to recognize and handle emergency TTY calls. She saw the need to train the 9-1-1 PSAP dispatchers on how to operate TTYs and communicate with TTY users. Because the deaf population of East Texas is scattered, without continuous training the dispatchers would soon forget how to use their TTYs efficiently—with disastrous results. By January 1993, she had found several Phone Pal volunteers, who began making random weekly test calls to the PSAPs in their own counties. (They always inform the 9-1-1 dispatcher that these are test calls.) A monthly test-call log is returned to the 9-1-1 Network of East Texas office (based in Tyler) for review. This information is then shared with each PSAP to give the dispatchers feedback on how well they're dealing with incoming TTY calls. Walters helps the 9-1-1 Network staff teach other volunteers about 9-1-1 access and the importance of making test calls. She also helps organize meetings and training of the Phone Pals volunteers. She and several other volunteers make time in their busy schedules to help with "hands-on" training of 9-1-1 PSAP dispatchers during TTY-training classes.

The creation of the Phone Pals program has increased the quality of life for members of the Deaf community by giving them confidence that, should they need to call 9-1-1, their calls will be handled properly—efficiently and *quickly*. The biggest challenges to the training program were teaching the 9-1-1 dispatchers about Deaf culture and ASL. The Smith County testing program is the first of its kind in the state of Texas (as well as the nation). Walters was nominated for the JCPenney Golden Rule Award for these accomplishments.

Her nomination now goes to the national level; winners will be announced September 12 in Dallas. There are four categories of winners with each local winner receiving $1,000 for their organizations. National winners receive $10,000. Walters hopes to use her local winnings to go to the NAD

Annual Conference in Knoxville, Tennessee this summer to give a presentation on the Phone Pals program.

Other Phone Pal volunteers are: **Martha Alaniz**, **Sally Barnett**, **Elizabeth Crook**, **Lydia Davis**, **Rickey Flanagan**, **Lynn Ford**, **Rhoda Gordon**, **Mark Grimes**, **Chris Hicks**, **Susan White**, and **Franki Widner**.

*See "When Seconds Count" by **Joanna Oliver**, and "How one volunteer did it: Kathy Walters' story," **DEAF LIFE Plus**, June 1993, pp. 21-22 ff.

"INCREASED INVOLVEMENT" IN KENTUCKY

During the 1994 Kentucky General Assembly, several bills having an impact on deaf and hard-of-hearing citizens came under consideration by the legislature. Members of the Deaf/hard-of-hearing community, together with staff of the Commission on the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (KCDHH), worked many long hours writing letters, making phone calls, meeting with legislators, and attending Senate and House Committee Meetings.

One important bill—which was passed—expands the Telephone Relay Service to include a TTY Distribution Program. Dr. **Bobbie Beth Scoggins**, Executive Director of KCDHH, said, "Relay services have greatly increased accessibility to the telecommunications system. However, deaf, hard-of-hearing, and speech-impaired persons still must purchase additional equipment that others do not need to have access to the phone. Passage of this bill brings us closer to equal access." A portion of the current surcharge for relay services will be used to fund the distribution program.

The legislature also passed a bill which makes Kentucky's Interpreter Laws comply with the Federal ADA. The ADA requires that the court in any matter, civil or criminal, shall appoint and pay a qualified interpreter for deaf persons who are parties, jurors, or witnesses. The new law states: "Interpreters shall not be required to testify regarding any other privileged communications without the consent of the person for whom they are interpreting."

Cole Zulauf, President of the Kentucky Association of the Deaf, said of the legislative session: "It was wonderful to see the large numbers of people who got involved in the fight for greater accessibility. With this increased involvement and the empowerment of the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community, I expect great things in the future."

CONNECTICUT CONNECTIONS

The Connecticut state government has approved a purchasing contract with Ultratec to help make it easy for agencies to order TTYs off a state contract. Both the Superprint 4420™ and the Superprint 200™ are listed on the state contract. The Superprint 4420 is the most advanced printing TTY, complete with Turbo Code™, Auto ID™, 32k memory, direct-connect capabilities, a built-in ring-flasher, and auto answer. The Superprint 200, which is used acoustically, includes features such as 8k memory, message buffers to save and send messages, TDD Announcer™, and sensitivity tuning. Interested agencies in Connecticut should contact the state purchasing department for order information.

Ultratec TTYs have also been chosen in the vast majority of state-distribution programs as well as in notable accounts throughout the U.S. and Canada. Companies which provide telecommunications equipment, such as AT&T Regional Bell Operating Companies, and government agencies, such as the Social Security Administration and the U.S. Department of Defense, have also chosen Ultratec TTYs for their high quality, excellent service, and affordability.

IN MEMORIAM: DR. MARTIN MINTER, PROFESSOR AT GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

A tribute by **Bruce Gross**, President, World Recreation Association of the Deaf—International Chapter

*Dr. **Martin Minter**, one of the staunchest supporters of the World Recreation Association of the Deaf, died of a heart attack on May 12. Dr. Minter was the Recreation Consultant to WRAD for many years and was also a very close friend of mine.*

It was Dr. Minter's encouragement and leadership that brought me to Gallaudet many times to talk to his students. He didn't want the students to miss their opportunity to know more about the activities and operations of WRAD. Dr. Minter also kept track of the progress of the local chapter of WRAD-USA, the Greater Washington Recreation Association of the Deaf. He was pleased to see the expansion and growth of the GWRAD chapter this past year.

Dr. Minter was always in close contact with the leaders and members of WRAD. He was an exceptional human being who wanted deaf people to succeed on a professional level. He was involved in many projects as a Professor in Recreation and Leisure Studies at Gallaudet, and one of his greatest contributions was to develop an Undergraduate Student Handbook, a program offerings in Recreation and Leisure Studies for Gallaudet student which would include information about WRAD.

I have personally known Dr. Minter for more than 25 years, as he and I came from the same neighborhood in Flushing, Queens, New York. We were often together and I taught him some sign language, but I never imagined that he would eventually become a Professor at Gallaudet University! Imagine my surprise when I arrived at Gallaudet as a student

and Martin Minter was my P.E. instructor! He was young and still was one of my best teachers! I graduated from Gallaudet and went on to my professional careers, including founding WRAD. Dr. Minter and I began to keep in touch with each other often. His positive attitude and willingness to support our efforts helped the growth of WRAD immensely.

Soon afterwards, I asked him to become the Recreation Consultant for WRAD-USA and then WRAD-International as the organization grew. Dr. Minter also encouraged me many times to get a Ph.D. degree. I finally decided to enter the Ph.D. program at the University of Southern California's School of Education so that I can move up in my professional career and fulfill his goals for me.

I am going to miss Dr. Minter's enthusiasm and his support of the success of deaf people's lives. It is going to be especially difficult for me, because he won't be at Gallaudet anymore when I am there on my visits. I will miss him greatly, both on a personal and professional basis.

What impresses me is that Dr. Minter was not deaf but he put deaf people first. I will never forget him, and we in the WRAD Community will miss him very much.

RAIN OR SHINE, HOLD THE DATE

Hearing Loss Link ("LINK") will hold a golf outing/fundraiser on Monday, August 8, at the scenic Cary Country Club in Cary, Illinois. The $75 entry fee includes 18 holes of golf, electric cart, breakfast and lunch buffet, and a chance at numerous prizes.

LINK is the Chicago-based nonprofit organization serving people who have suffered a significant or complete hearing loss after having functioned as normal hearing persons during the earlier part of their lives. Until recently, people with adult-onset hearing loss were largely unserved by social-service agencies nationwide. LINK was established as a model project to begin addressing the unique concerns of this population.

In its first year of operation, LINK has been overwhelmed by requests for information and services related to adult hearing loss. The Golf Outing/fundraiser will help provide funding for staff salaries; for community-based programs, such as monthly informational seminars and sign-language and speechreading classes, for the establishment and maintenance of self-help support groups, and for outreach.

"We need a bigger staff to handle the demand for services," says LINK Executive Director **Bill Graham**. "We've received requests from throughout the country to help people set up a LINK where they live, but we need to get the program fully developed in Illinois before we branch out. The golf outing will help build our funding base and increase public awareness of LINK's programs. It's also going to be a lot of fun. Bad golfers and nongolfers are very welcome because I don't want to finish last."

LINK seeks sponsorships for the golf outing from corporations, foundations, service and consumer organizations, and individuals. The categories of sponsorship are: Event Sponsor, $500 or more; Individual Hole Sponsor, $250; and Contributors, less than $250. Checks should be made out to Hearing Loss Link and mailed c/o **Cheryl Grelle**, 450 W. Hillside Avenue, Barrington, Illinois 60010. Or ask for an Entry/Sponsor Form. Deadline for entries and sponsorships is July 31. Golfers will be notified of tee time by mail or telephone before August 5. The Golf Outing will be held rain or shine. Sorry, no rain date available.

For general information: Hearing Loss Link, 2600 West Peterson Avenue, Suite 202, Chicago, IL 60659. ☎(312) 743-1007 (TTY); ☎(312) 743-1032 (Voice); ❐(312) 769-3953 (FAX).

GEARING UP FOR THE WINTER GAMES

The American Athletic Association of the Deaf has selected its 1995 U.S. Team/Winter World Games for the Deaf Committee. Members are: **Jeffrey W. Lewis**, Team Director; **Randy Prezioso**, Financial Officer; **A. Dwight Benedict**, Logistics Officer; **Fred Weiner**, Public Relations Officer.

Tryouts for the U.S. Ski Teams (alpine and cross-country) were held in Park City, Utah, March 6-13. The final roster of the U.S. Deaf Ski Team members:

Alpine Ski Team: **Robert Smith**, Head Coach; **Doug Dickinson**, Assistant Coach/Team Technician; **Senda Benaissa**, **Nancy Bonura**, **Kelly Butterworth**, **James Steve Kittell III**, **Ken Litherland**, **C. Loren McDonald**, **Jamie Mendicino**, **Matt Turner**.

Cross-Country Ski Team: **John Funk**, Head Coach; **Wendy Osterling**, **Ken Buck**, **Dan Newman**, **Mark Sorenson**.

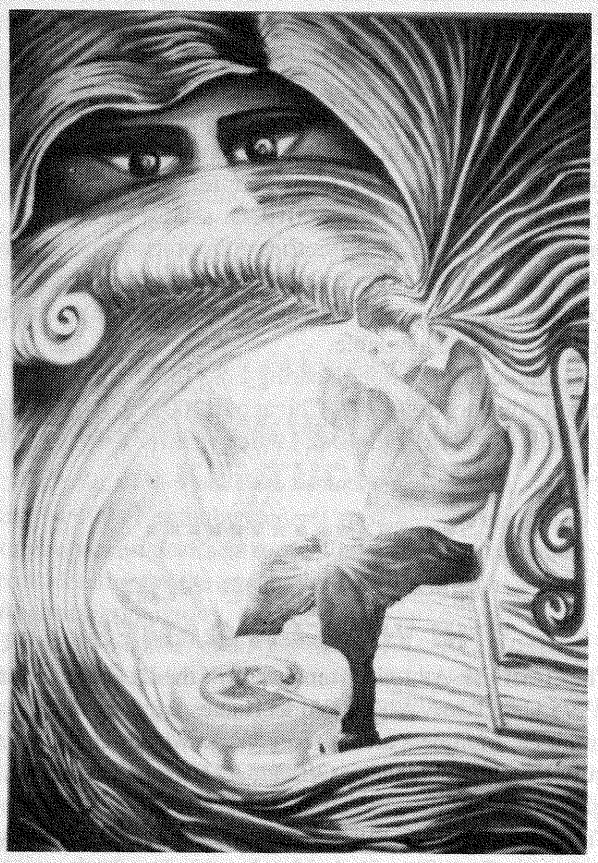
For more information, contact the AAAD National Office at ☎(801) 393-7916 (TTY), ☎(801) 393-8710 (Voice), or ❐(801) 393-2263 (FAX).

"FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION"

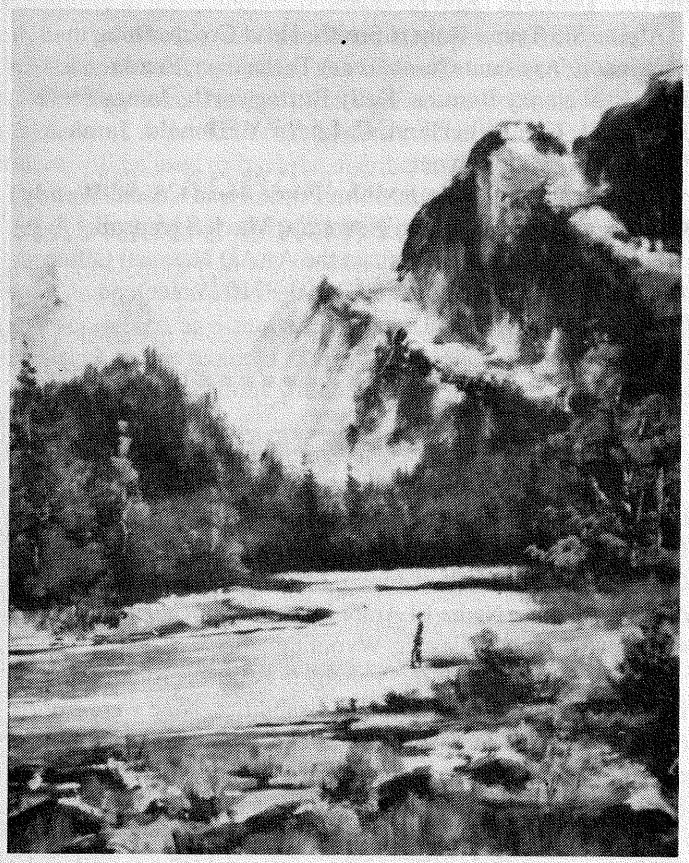
The 1994 Fellows of Very Special Arts' Yamagata International Visual Arts Program are: Adrienne Boisvert Allaire of Brossard, Quebec, Canada; Michael Degner of Berlin, Germany; Jade Dewelt of Joplin, Missouri; Tetsushi Iwashita of Osaka, Japan; Nadia El Arabi Mohamed of Cairo, Egypt; and Steve Welch of Casper, Wyoming.

The 18 applicants for the Yamagata Fellows program included artists with and without disabilities. Nine were from the United States and nine from foreign countries. With the exception of Ms. Mohamed, each of the 1994 Yamagata Fellows has a disability.

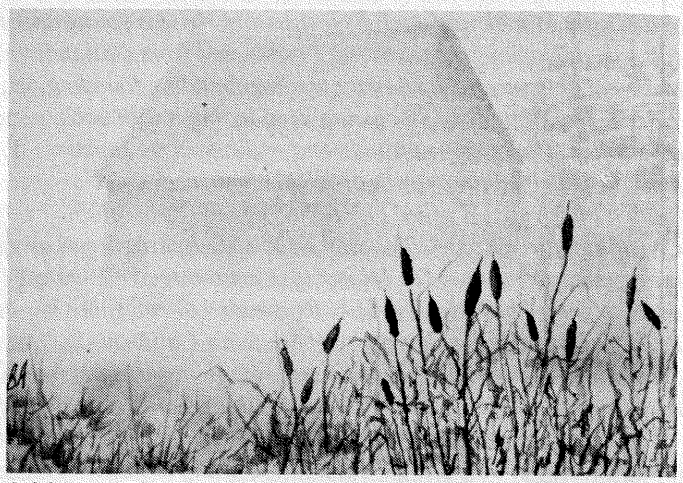
The Yamagata Fellows jury included Juanita McNeely, 1992 Yamagata Fellow David Sampson, and VSA Board of



Nadia Arabi Mohamed, "Melody of My Life," oil, 27.3" x 19.5".



Steve Welch, "The Clark River," oil, 12" x 9".



Adrienne Boisvert Allaire, "Derriere Chez-Nous" (Behind our home"), watercolor, 5" x 7.25".
(Photos courtesy of VSA)

Directors member Randy Souders. All three are visual artists. They based their decisions on the merits of artwork and essays submitted by the applicants. In these essays, applicants described the importance of the arts in their lives and detailed an art program that they would like to implement.

"The talents of the 1994 Yamagata Fellows are consistent with the Yamagata International Visual Arts Program's theme of freedom of expression," said world-renowned artist Hiro Yamagata, the program's founder. "I am confident that, through their experience in the Yamagata Program, these skilled artists will further develop their own talents while strengthening arts opportunities for people with disabilities worldwide."

The Yamagata Institute was held in Brussels, Belgium, May 1-8, in conjunction with the International Very Special Arts Festival (May 4-7), which is held once every 5 years. It demonstrates the power of the arts for people with disabilities from by spotlighting VSA programs worldwide.

Prior to the festival, the fellows worked on paintings during four "studio days" to demonstrate techniques and share ideas about the creative process. They also participated in a training course to develop professional skills and learn adaptive techniques to increase visual-arts opportunities in their own countries for people with disabilities.

Works by the fellows were featured in the 1994 Yamagata Exhibit at the Royal Museum of Art and History in Brussels. This annual exhibit, part of the Yamagata International Visual Arts Program, consists of 25 works by professional and amateur artists with and without disabilities from VSA programs worldwide. It was a cumulative show featuring works from the two previous annual Yamagata Exhibits.

Background: The Yamagata Visual Arts Program was created in 1992 through a $6 million grant to VSA from Mr. Yamagata. It focuses on freedom of expression and the creative learning process. He has been involved with VSA since 1989, when he created a commemorative work of art for the first International Very Special Arts Festival. A VSA Founding Artist, he has created several other works for the

organization, including a 1994 print honoring VSA's 20th anniversary.

A BID FOR EXCELLENCE

At the 1994 VSA International Art Auction. From left: **Eugene C. Maillard, VSA's CEO; Phyllis George; Mrs. Masako Kuriyama, VSA Advisory Committee chair; and her husband Takakazu Kuriyama, Japanese Ambassador.**

Phyllis George and Senator Conrad Burns share the podium as guest auctioneers. (Photos: Shelley Schulze)

On April 12, Very Special Arts held its fourth annual International Art Auction at the Japanese ambassador's residence in Washington, D.C. Proceeds helped support artists from more than 60 countries who went to Brussels for the International Very Special Arts Festival.

Very Special Arts International Advisory Committee chair Mrs. Masako Kuriyama, wife of His Excellency Takakazu Kuriyama, Japan's ambassador to the United States, hosted the auction. Auctioneers included Phyllis George, former Miss America; Senator Conrad Burns (R-Montana), and Ford's Theatre Chairman William McSweeny. Ambassador Molly Raiser, U.S. Chief of Protocol, was the honorary chair of the auction.

Approximately 200 guests from Washington's diplomatic, political, arts, and disability communities attended the black-tie auction, which was conducted in conjunction with Sotheby's. They purchased a total of 48 pieces of art—including paintings, folk art, sculpture, and crystal—donated by artists from 29 countries. "This year's internal art auction was our most successful to date," said Mrs. Kuriyama. "Each year the interest in the auction grows as more and more people embrace Very Special Arts and the auction's purpose of increasing arts opportunities for people with disabilities worldwide."

Background: VSA's International Advisory Committee, formed in 1989, is made up of members of the diplomatic community and representatives of international organizations. In addition to organizing the Very Special Arts International Art Auction, the committee provides counsel and support to VSA International Programs.

In addition to Mrs. Kuriyama, the Advisory Committee Executive Board includes Vice Chairs Hoda Maher of Egypt and Didi Cutler of the United States; Fatiha Zerhouni of Algeria; Barbara Stabreit of Germany; Maeve Gallagher of Ireland; Margaret Bernal of Jamaica; Feryal Al-Sabah of Kuwait; Marie Aguirre of Paraguay; Annette Schwarz of South Africa; Mei Ding of Taiwan, R.O.C.; Ines MacGillycuddy of Uruguay; and Cathy Philpott of the United States.*

* The VSA press release prefixed all these names with "Mrs.," here omitted.

ANOTHER HONOR FOR MERRILL LYNCH'S SULLIVAN

On June 28, the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf will bestow its Bell Award on Merrill Lynch for its contribution to the Deaf community with its nationwide Deaf/Hard of Hearing Investor Service, founded 4 years ago by **Christopher Sullivan**, a deaf technical analyst at the giant brokerage firm.

Sullivan, who started working for Merrill Lynch in 1987, began the service in January 1990, in response to eager requests from deaf businesspeople who welcomed an opportunity to communicate spontaneously and confidentially° about their personal finances without the intrusion of an interpreter. Their overwhelming response, he believed, necessitated the establishment of a support network for this clientele. His research suggested a market potential of 24 million deaf and hard-of-hearing citizens—a market that had been largely neglected. And so Merrill Lynch launched its Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing Investor Service network, the nation's first. It now includes 85 volunteering Merrill Lynch Financial Consultants across the country. Deaf and hard-of-hearing investors are routed to the nearest participating Financial Consultant, who

use TTYs, voice-amplification equipment, and dedicated phone lines. Most aren't deaf but have deaf relatives or friends, or have worked with deaf people in business, schools, or colleges. Many know ASL.

In summer 1992, Sullivan received the Silver Anvil Award from the Public Relations Society of America. On December 20, 1993, he received the coveted Presidential Merit Award from the National Association of the Physically Handicapped.* This new award is the third major one bestowed on Merrill Lynch for its Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing Investor Service. It will be presented at AGBAD's international convention at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Rochester, New York. [See "Upcoming Conferences, Conventions & Festivals" above.]

Background: AGBAD presents its Bell Award only 5 times a decade to individuals or organizations who have made outstanding contributions in the field of deafness. Other recipients of the prestigious award include the late Presidents **John F. Kennedy** and **Lyndon B. Johnson**.

*See "Sullivan's Silver Anvil," December 1992 "News Briefs," p. 14; and "'A first': Sullivan gets top N.A.P.H. award," February 1994 "News Briefs," p. 19.

spontaneously and confidentially: quickly, without delay, and privately (without anyone else listening in or being involved).

AND ONE FOR THE PRUDE

The Prudential Insurance Company of America has been named one of New Jersey's "Top Ten Employers" by the Business and Rehabilitation Alliance. It was recognized for making significant contributions toward increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities in the past year. The winners were announced in early May by Frederick E. Kniesler, Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Labor, during the Alliance's recent conference, *Exploring Creative Employment Strategies for Business and People with Disabilities*.

Joining Prudential as winners were Canteen Corporation of the Greater Delaware Valley—Stockton College Division, Pomona; Chuck E. Cheese Restaurant of Deptford; Foodtown of Bricktown; Marlboro Psychiatric Hospital, Marlboro; Meineke Discount Muffler of Marlton; the Newark Airport Marriott, Newark; Omega Circuits and Engineering Corporation, New Brunswick; Schering-Plough, Kenilworth; and United Jersey Bank, Hackensack. The winners were selected from nominations submitted on behalf of large and small public- and private-sector businesses and organizations throughout the state.

"The Top Ten Awards help focus attention on the important contributions these companies have made toward creating employment opportunities for people with disabilities and help to set standards for other organizations to follow," said Sharon Kaplan, Executive Director of the Alliance. "We applaud Prudential for their 'can do' attitude, as well as for their nationally-recognized reputation as a truly equal-opportunity employer."

The Prudential was recognized for its company-wide implementation° of a supported-employment program, known as the Pachysandra Project.° This initiative involves an innovative business-public-sector partnership which has enabled nine people with developmental disabilities to join a variety of departments at Prudential. The goal of the program is to "till the soil" with scattered "plantings" of supported employees throughout the company, with this mentored employment becoming an ingrained° part of Prudential's corporate culture and hiring process.

Valarie Campbell, an employment representative at Prudential, participated in a panel discussion during the conference to explain Prudential's initiative. She said: "We are honored to be recognized for our initiatives to attract, hire, and promote people with disabilities. The Prudential has a heritage of seeking individuals of all backgrounds and talents to contribute and grow in the company. We encourage all companies to recognize the advantages in attracting a diverse workforce. Not simply because it is good corporate citizenship, but because it makes good business sense."

implementation: putting into action.

pachysandra: Also known as "Japanese spurge," this refers to several varieties of a plant native to Japan with evergreen leaves and small white flowers. Frequently cultivated as a ground cover. (From a Greek word meaning "with thick stamens.")

ingrained: habitual; regular.

A 'WIN-WIN' SITUATION"

On May 12, businesses owned by minorities, women, and persons with disabilities had an opportunity to meet state purchasing agents on one-to-one basis during a free MAFBE Matchmaker Conference, *Opportunity Through Challenge*, at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Stephen B. Schnorf, Director of the Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS), said: "Matchmaker conferences are a great opportunity for businesses owned by minorities, females, and persons with disabilities to interact directly with the state officials who make important purchasing decisions. It is a 'win-win' situation for everyone involved."

The conference ran from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. General-session topics included "Purchasing at the State of Illinois" and "How to Respond to Bids." Before the mini-conference, Schnorf said: "This year we are excited about the addition of 15 new mini-workshop sessions, which will provide an even better way for MAFBE vendors and state representatives to discuss a specific commodity, equipment, or service area. These panels will be anchored by CMS buyers and agency and university representatives."

The mini-conference was sponsored by the CMS Minority and Female Business Enterprise (MAFBE) Program and the

University of Illinois at Chicago, and co-sponsored by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA) and the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS). It was held in cooperation with approximately 60 local chambers of commerce and business organizations serving the targeted communities. DCCA representatives were at the conference to answer questions about loan programs and many other small-business matters.

For information on upcoming events, call the MAFBE office at ☎(312) 814-4190 or ☎800-356-9206 (Voice), or via Illinois Relay, ☎1-800-526-0844 (TTY).

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Barrier-free gardens: Gardening has proven to be therapeutic, which partly accounts for its status as America's #1 leisure-time activity. **The Enabling Garden** by **Gene Rothert** (Taylor Publishing, May 1994) goes a step further by showing how the disabled and the elderly can create their own user-friendly gardens. The focus is on establishing an environment that enables anyone to enjoy gardening: it's chock-full of ideas and information about helpful gadgets, modified techniques, and tips to make garden maintenance more manageable. It also benefits those with a lifetime of experience working the soil but who are getting a touch of arthritis, can't see as well as they used to, or perhaps have a heart condition that limits activity. With enthusiasm and encouragement, **The Enabling Garden** describes how to begin and continue a lifetime of successful gardening, no matter the physical challenge.

Among its innovative ideas:

- constructing vertical-wall gardens and raised beds for easy wheelchair access;
- having hanging baskets on pulleys and lines that can be easily raised and lowered to water, trim, etc.;
- creating rest areas within the garden;
- putting contrasting plants next to each other so those with low vision can better see ripening vegetables;
- selecting plants with fragrance and interesting textures;
- having edge guides in the garden to mark paths.

Rothert is Manager of Urban Horticulture for the Chicago Botanic Garden, which includes the "Learning Garden for the Disabled," and is President of the American Horticultural Therapy Association. He has appeared on PBS's ***Victory Garden*** to talk about barrier-free gardening. He relishes° his time in his own enabling garden in Highland Park, Illinois.

relishes: enjoys.

Multiple choices: Peterson's Competitive Colleges 1994-1995 does NOT rank colleges according to arbitrary criteria based on a one-size-fits-all philosophy. Instead, it provides clear, comprehensive, consistent information that helps high achievers identify—from among the nation's most selective colleges—the institutions that most closely fit their unique needs.

Left to right: **Ilse Mitchell, CBHSM's Honorary President; Rachel Chaikof, Child of the Year; and Lionel Hampton, Honorary Chairman.**

Featuring full-page descriptions of more than 350 top schools, **Competitive Colleges** is designed to facilitate° comparison. Each page is laid out in the same way, offering information on topics ranging from academic and athletic programs to faculty, housing, college life, costs and financial aid, and career planning. Based on the philosophy that the quality of the student body is one of the most important factors in a successful college career, the book also presents information on the measurable academic quality of students, including data such as SAT/ACT scores, National Merit Scholars in the entering class, application/acceptance rates, grade-point averages for the freshman class, and Fulbright, Marshall, and Rhodes scholars.

In addition to providing information on academic programs, curriculums, degrees, and popular majors, the book features articles on such topics as how to make the most of campus visits and how to estimate a family's potential for receiving financial aid.

facilitate: make easier.

"SWINGING IN THE AISLES"

Lionel Hampton, "King of the Vibraphone," had the "joint a-jumping" at the May 5th kickoff for Better Hearing &

Speech Month.* Along with his Golden Men of Jazz, he had the music students at the Duke Ellington School for the Arts in Washington, D.C., swinging in the aisles to favorites such as "When I Wish Upon a Star," and "Flyin' Home." Recently returned from a month-long European tour, he told the students of his experience with hearing loss and the help he received. After more than 50 years on the bandstand, his hearing became impaired and now he wears a hearing aid. Encouraging the future jazz musicians to "turn the volume down," he said, "As a musician, there is much that can be done to insure a full life of hearing health. If you have a hearing or speech difficulty, contact an audiologist or an ear doctor to find out how it can be helped."

Hampton and 7-year-old **Rachel Chaikof** of Atlanta, Georgia, the Council for Better Hearing & Speech Month's Child of the Year, later appeared at a National Press Club luncheon. Hampton said, "Rachel and I are two of 42 million Americans with speech and hearing difficulties, our nation's #1 disability. I am honored to serve as the Council's 1994 Chairman because I believe in its message that help is available for better hearing and speech." He congratulated the Council for its work this year. "It is through the services you provide that we are able to help people. This year's theme, 'Jazz Up Your Life with Better Hearing and Speech,' is a perfect example of what happens when you get help."

Rachel is the recipient of a cochlear implant. She and Hampton talked about the things she saw while in Washington, D.C. She particularly enjoyed visiting with Congressman **Newt Gingrich** when she and her parents, **Melissa** and **Elliot Chaikof**, met with him on Capitol Hill.

*See "Play it—but don't blast it," May 1994 "News Briefs," pp. 21-22; "'Miracle child,'" December 1993, p. 23; "Good vibes and all that jazz," March 1994, p. 23.

(YET ANOTHER) MIRACLE CURE!

The folks at the **Weekly World News** are at again. The May 31 issue carried a screaming, oddly familiar-looking headline: "GINSENG & GRAPE JUICE CURES: **TIREDNESS • ARTHRITIS • STRESS** • HEARING LOSS • IMPOTENCE • SORE MUSCLES • HEART DISEASE • INDIGESTION CANCER • MEMORY LOSS • INFERTILITY • GAS • AGING • BAD BREATH • TEENAGE ACNE! Miracle remedy costs pennies a day!"

If you think that this reads almost exactly like the one promoting the honey-and-apple-cider "cure" in the March 29 issue, so do we.* The inside article (by Correspondent **Beatrice Webster**) looked awfully familiar too. Some of the phrases were exactly the same as those used in the previous writeup. Only the ingredients were different. "Ginseng & grape juice: Nature's miracle healing combination can: Cure memory loss, control killer cholesterol & prevent heart disease, soothe away the aches and pains of arthritis," it began. "Nature's powerful health potion is a miracle remedy you can mix up yourself—out of a natural root called ginseng and ordinary grape juice! The potent mixture has been hailed as a powerful weapon against everything from fatigue to cancer, yet it is made from inexpensive ingredients anyone can buy at their local supermarket or health food store. Used in conjunction with a doctor's advice, it's a powerful antidote for all kinds of illnesses." The recipe was, of course, provided: "To prepare the mixture, all you have to do is purchase fresh ginseng root of any variety, puree it in your blender and add one tablespoon to two tablespoons of grape juice. Or buy ginseng capsules, open two of them and sprinkle the contents into two tablespoons of juice."

"Hailed as a powerful weapon" by whom, we wonder?

As with the honey-and-apple-cider miracle cure, we were really eager to read what effect ginseng and grape juice had on hearing loss. The section on "HEARING LOSS" was sandwiched between "FATIGUE" and "STRESS REDUCTION." Here's what the **Weekly World News** had to say: "An old folk remedy for deafness recommends taking a daily dose of ginseng and grape juice and rubbing the mixture behind the ear before bedtime. Amazingly, a study of 27 patients in Chicago who followed this traditional medical advice reported that hearing improved measurably after two or three weeks." Just who these "patients" were, who supervised their "treatment," and who conducted the "study," the **News** doesn't say. (Which is not surprising. They never bother mentioning trivial details like that.) Strange that none of us have ever heard (excuse the pun) of this "old folk remedy for deafness," but then, we'd never heard of the honey-and-apple-cider one, either.

Once again, we predict that in a few months, the **News** will publicize yet another "miracle cure" for deafness. Be prepared. What do you suppose it will be next time? Mushrooms and apricots? Parsley and royal jelly? How about pear juice and pepper? Anyone wanna make a bet?

The ginseng-and grape-juice "cure" undoubtedly won't hurt you. And it's considerably cheaper than a Phonic Ear. If you want to follow the advice all the way, go ahead and rub it behind your ears before you go to bed. If you end up with purple stains on your pillowcase and odd comments from your sweetie ("What's that funny-smelling stuff you're wearing?"), don't say you weren't warned.

*See "At Last! A Miracle Cure!", December 1993 "News Briefs," p. 23; "Return of the Miracle Cure!" April 1994, p. 13.

WHAT'S DOING IN LOS ANGELES

Gearing for grants: The 1995-96 City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department grants workshops—to help

individual artists and organizations with the process of applying for a Cultural Grant—are set to start on June 13 and will continue at various citywide locations through July 9.

The free workshops will provide participants with a general overview of the grants program and application process. Workshop sessions, designed to aid the public in preparing strong and competitive applications, will have a specific focus, either on individual artists, organizations, or both individual artists and organizations. ASL and Spanish interpreters will be available at two of the 12 workshops. Both focus on organizations *and* individual artists. These are:

Tuesday, June 21, 6-8 p.m.
Self Help Graphics and Art
3802 Avenue Cesar Chavez, East Los Angeles
ASL interpreter

Thursday, July 7, 6-8 p.m.
Lincoln Heights Senior Center
2323 Workman Street, Los Angeles
Spanish interpreter

The deadline for grant applications is September 1. 1995-96 Cultural Grants application and guideline forms are now available. Booklets may be picked up at the following public facilities: Los Angeles Public Library branches (check telephone book for locations), Los Angeles City Council district field offices (check phone book), and Cultural Affairs Department arts centers (call ☎213-485-8665 [Voice] for center locations). For more information, call ☎(213) 847-3368 (TTY) or ☎(213) 620-8635 (Voice).

Dream dolls: A free 6-week dollmaking workshop led by Dorothy Taylor in two sessions for children and adults started May 22 and runs through June 26 at the Watts Towers Arts Center, 1727 East 107th Street, Los Angeles. The workshop gave participants the opportunity to make cloth dolls with painted faces and handmade clothes. One doll body was provided for each student; participants provided such materials as yarn, fabric, and stuffing for the doll body. Sewing machines were optional. To find out whether the workshop will be offered again, call ☎(213) 485-1795 or ☎(213) 847-4646 (both Voice).

Openings

Two architectural exhibitions that offer an expanded perspective on urban planning opened May 10 at the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery in Barnsdall Art Park, 4800 Hollywood Boulevard. The exhibitions coincided with the national convention of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) from May 13-17 in Los Angeles. According to Noel Korten, curator/program director of the Municipal Art Gallery, the exhibitions present a contrast between historic concepts of civic design on a grand scale and current designs that meet the immediate needs of specific communities. "When combined, the two exhibitions allow visitors to better understand the ambitions of the past and the challenges of the present in urban design."

The first exhibition, *The Third Los Angeles: The Creation of Downtown L.A., 1900-1939*, features some of the mot important Southern California architectural firms and buildings from the early part of the century. The first Los Angeles was the original Spanish pueblo; the second was an American Victorian town, and at the beginning of the 20th century, the third Los Angeles was created: a major agricultural, commercial, and industrial city. Original architectural renderings, drawings, and photographs have been selected to illustrate scale and order in urban planning and architecture during this latter period.

Among the buildings included in *The Third Los Angeles* are Bullock's Wilshire, Fourth Street Bridge, Los Angeles City Hall, Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles County Hospital, Los Angeles Public Library, Los Angeles Times Building, Mayan Theater, Richfield Building, and Union Station. The exhibition was organized by Jay Belloli, Director of Gallery Programs, Armory Center for the Arts; Elizabeth Moule and Stefanos Plyzoides, architects; and Jan Furey Muntz, architect, AIA. The Third Los Angeles is the fifth historical-architecture exhibition organized by this group in the last 11 years.

A Conversations with the Artists program, in conjunction with *The Third Los Angeles*, takes place Saturday, June 11, at 3 p.m., with Moule, Muntz, and Plyzoides.

The second exhibition, *Los Angeles Service Station Project: Social Studies—Architects Building on Neighborhood Resources*, is a series of case studies testing architectural ideas that are responsive to the resources and needs of inner-city communities. Organized by architects Chris Jarrett and Norman Millar, the project brought together 11 architectural teams to work with civic agencies and community groups to create architectural prototypes for specific neighborhoods. Said Jarrett and Millar: "As the next century approaches, cities are faced with the challenge of appropriately building, rebuilding, and sustaining their inner neighborhoods. By proposing the development of lighter-weight and more localized means to access city services, our case studies offer ways to strengthen the sense of neighborhood identity."

The architectural teams are Bestor/Millar with Grant and others; Brooks/Scarpa with Arroyo and others; Chu/Gooding/Yu; Jarrett with Chung, Han, and others; Massie/Paley; Oliva/Rendler; Pleskow/Rael with Tang and Lee; Ray/Lowry; Sheine/Johnson with Abels and Barar; Son/Min, and Williams. The exhibition was co-sponsored by the University of Southern California School of Architecture.

Two *Conversations with the Artists* programs, in conjunction with Los Angeles Service Station Project, are set for Saturdays, June 18 and 25, at 3 p.m., with team members.

Municipal Art Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 12:30-5 p.m.; closed Monday. For further information: ☎(213) 660-4254 (TTY); ☎(213) 485-4581 (Voice).

Continuing attractions

➳ Solo exhibition by Kenzi Shiokava. Sculptures made from discarded materials and naturally weathered and marked woods. Watts Towers Arts Center, 1727 E. 107th St., Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-1795 or ☎(213) 847-4646. Free. Through June 25.

➳ *ASL Tours of Hollyhock House* are offered on the first Sunday of each month. Call ☎(213) 660-4254 (TTY) for reservations and time. Barnsdall Art Park, 4800 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles. Nominal admission fee.

➳ *Will & Co. Workshops*, every Tuesday and Wednesday evening, include topics such as fencing, text interpretation, and Shakespearean performance. LATC, 514 S. Spring Street, Los Angeles. For membership information: ☎(310) 798-6290. Ask about accessibility.

Previews

June 8

➳ *Cityscapes: The Los Angeles Story*, one in a monthly afterschool storytelling series with hands-on experiences related to the stories read, for children of all ages, 3:30 p.m. Artspace Gallery, 21800 Oxnard Street, Woodland Hills. ☎(213) 847-3368 (TTY); ☎(213) 237-1313 or ☎(818) 716-2786 (Voice). Free.

June 11

➳ *Conversations with the Artists*, in conjunction with *The Third Los Angeles: The Creation of Downtown L.A., 1900-1939*, an exhibition of original architectural renderings, drawings, and photographs illustrating scale and order in urban planning and architecture in Los Angeles during the early part of the century. Participating architects: Elizabeth Moule, Stefanos Polyzoides, and Jan Furey Muntz. 3 p.m. Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park, 4800 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-4581.

June 12

➳ *Latin-American Literary Figures in Los Angeles, 1920s-1940s*, a lecture by Max Benavidez. Third in the 10-part lecture series *Writers of the Historic Wilshire Corridor*. Lecture followed by discussion. 11 a.m. Robert Burns Park, corner of Beverly Boulevard and Van Ness Avenue. The series is made possible, in part, by a grant from the California Council for the Humanities, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Through December 4. ☎(213) 485-2433. Free.

June 17-18

➳ *Juneteenth: A Festival Celebration in Music, Art, History, and Dance*. Time and program TBA. William Grant Still Arts Center, 2520 West View Street, Los Angeles. ☎(213) 734-1164.

June 18

➳ *Family Fun Day*, an afternoon of hands-on art experiences designed for children age 5 and older. In conjunction with the exhibition Artists and Architecture. Reservations should be made by June 15. Artspace Gallery, 21800 Oxnard Street, Woodland Hills. For reservations and information: ☎(818) 716-2786 or ☎(213) 237-1373. Free.

➳ *Conversations with the Artists*, in conjunction with *Los Angeles Service Station Project: Social Studies—Architects Building on Neighborhood Resources*. Participating architects: Angela Brooks, Chris Jarrett, Tom Rael, Paul Tang, David Lee, Mary-Ann Ray, William Williams, and Nuke & Duke. 3 p.m. Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park, 4800 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-4581.

➳ *Play Ball*, an exhibition of children's sports artwork created to honor ARTS94 (a program conducted by World Cup USA, Inc.). Opening reception: July 11, 2-4 p.m. Children's Gallery at Junior Arts Center, Barnsdall Art Park, 4800 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-4474.

➳ *Culture in the Afternoon*, the fourth in a lunchtime series of mini-festivals featuring ethnic music, dance, performance art, and poetry. Ethnic food for sale. 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Barnsdall Art Park, 4800 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles. ☎(213) 660-4254 (TTY) or ☎(213) 485-4581 (Voice).

June 25

➳ Registration for summer classes starts, 7 a.m.-1 p.m., at Barnsdall Arts Center, Barnsdall Art Park. ☎(213) 485-4474.

➳ *Octavio Paz in Los Angeles: The Labyrinth of Solitude*, a lecture by Max Benavidez. Fourth in the 10-part lecture series *Writers of the Historic Wilshire Corridor*. Lecture followed by discussion. 11 a.m. George C. Page Museum Park, corner of Ogden and 6th Street, Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-2433. Free.

➳ *Conversations with the Artists*, in conjunction with *Los Angeles Service Station Project: Social Studies—Architects Building on Neighborhood Resources*. Participating architects: Michael Rendler, Marcela Oliva-Aguilar, Annie Chu, Judith Sheine, Norman Millar, Barbara Bestor, and Hak Sik Son. 3 p.m. Municipal Art Gallery, Barnsdall Art Park, 4800 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-4581.

July 5

➳ Summer session starts at Barnsdall Arts Center, Barnsdall Art Park. ☎(213) 485-4474. (Through September 2.)

July 9

➳ Solo exhibition by installation artist Kayren Lyle. Opening reception: July 17, 2-5 p.m. Watts Towers Arts Center, 1727 E. 107th St., Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-1795 or ☎(213) 847-4646. Free.

July 10

Aldous Huxley's Los Angeles, a lecture by Dr. Walter Wells. Fifth in the 10-part lecture series *Writers of the Historic Wilshire Corridor*. Lecture followed by discussion.

11 a.m. George C. Page Museum Park, corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Curson Avenue, Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-2433. Free.

Sunday Open Sunday, a free family-art workshop, presents "Self-Portrait/Photo Art," with photo artist Jean Ferro, 2-4 p.m. Junior Arts Center, Barnsdall Art Park.

July 11

➳ *Play Ball*, an exhibition of children's sports artwork created to honor ARTS94. Opening reception: 2-4 p.m. Children's Gallery at Junior Arts Center, Barnsdall Art Park, 4800 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles. ☎(213) 485-4474.

GENERAL INFORMATION

➳ For exhibits and events in Barnsdall Art Park, call ☎(213) 660-4254 (TTY). This TTY is located the Municipal Art Gallery, which serves all the facilities in Barnsdall Art Park: Hollyhock House, Junior Arts Center, Barnsdall Arts Center, and Gallery Theatre—same number.

➳ For more information, contact the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department at ☎(213) 847-3368 (TTY) or ☎(213) 485-2433 (Voice), or the phone numbers given for each facility. (Most are Voice, so use the relay service.)

➳ For a complete calendar of events and previews, and list of Cultural Affairs Department facilities, contact: City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department, 433 South Spring Street, 10th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90013.

PRISONERS' PEN-PAL EXCHANGE

➺ Carl Bailey
C-04146 #3320
California Men's Colony
P.O. Box 8101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93409-0001

"Married, hearing biker would enjoy hearing from a few deaf people who are bikers, or enjoy something of the lifestyle. I know there are those people out there, I learned English sign from a deaf biker."

✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉

Ron Blaney
H-33465 #3108
California Men's Colony
P.O. Box 8101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93409-0001

"I am 36 years old, white male and deaf. I am a Christian. I would like to correspond with an honest and a friendly person."

✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉

Joe M. Burciaga
H-29514
California Men's Colony
P.O. Box 8101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93409-0001

"I am a 35-year-old male Hispanic, English-speaking, American Citizen from California. I am 5 ft. 8-1/2 in. in height, and weigh 190 lbs. I have short black hair (lanced to the side), brown eyes, and a light Brown tan complexion. I look forward to receiving correspondence from males and females alike."

✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉

Earl Corey
H27523 #3112
California Men's Colony
P.O. Box 8101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93409-0003

"I am a hearing-impaired inmate here at C.M.C. I am 32 years old and also come from a family that are all Deaf likewise."

✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉

Anthony N. Critsley II
186133
Marion Correctional Institution
P.O. Box 158 (686)
Lowell, FL 32663-0158

Would appreciate deaf pen-pals. "I rarely receive any letters except from my family. I appreciate any endeavors you may find out and I look forward to your response."

✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉

Kenny Gaines
H-12564
C.M.C. East #1285
P.O. Box 8101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93409-0003

"I'm 5' 8", light-complected black man, 25 years old, with curly hair, brown eyes, 150 lbs. Sincere and understanding. Seeks correspondence. Presently incarcerated. 'Not criminally orientated.'"

✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉

Donald Edward Kean
C-26774 Room 1237
California Men's Colony
P.O. Box 8101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93409-0003

"I am a 35-year-old white male. I am 5' 11" tall, short blond hair with a tail, blue eyes, clean-shaven.

I am looking for an understanding deaf or hard-of-hearing lady that I could correspond with and maybe marry.

I am a lifer and I have been lock up since 1980 and I go back to the lifer board next year and I might get a date sooner or later.

I want to love and care for someone.

Please, no mind game!!

I am a hard-of-hearing man and I have a difficult time of understanding hearing peoples and I do know sign language. I enjoy working out with weight and playing sport, like footbag, football, boxing.

Please send a picture of yourself and I will send you a picture of myself!!"

✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉

Kenneth M. Mullins
28181-008 — MOJ-B
37910 N. 45th Avenue, Dept. 1700
Phoenix, AZ 85027-7055

Hello—I am a deaf inmate serving time in a Federal institution, and I am the only one who is deaf in the whole compound. I am lonely as it is and I am not really the type who would go to prison, but that's the way things are. I would love to have some pen-pals, to write many things of interest . . . I do not care who you are, just come on and write! Many thanks!

✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉

Evelio Torres
E. 98591 B-Q 3103
California Men's Colony
P.O. Box 8101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93409-0003

"I'm in state prison doing 10 years. I'm harmless, full Deaf. I come from Deaf family."

✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉

Richard Valentine
C57095, Rm. #6291
California Men's Colony
P.O. Box 8101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93409-0003

"I'm 5' 10" tall, about 175 pounds, brown hair, brown eyes, clean-cut and clean-shaven. Definitely not a prison [type]. I like the beach, camping, fishing, and just spending time with friends. I'm a good friend, and a good listener, and I am genuinely interested in other people's points of view. I'll be happy to correspond with both guys and girls, and although I'm not able to send pictures of myself, I'd like them to send pictures of themselves. I prefer people with disabilities, deaf, blind, or any problem. I have a retarded brother, so I understand how difficult it can be."

✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉

James D. Wardlow, Cell 6111
E-40846
California Men's Colony East
P.O. Box 8101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93409-0003

"I am 27 years old, 6' 2" tall and 200 pounds. I like a lot of deaf friends; thus, I am not picky. I will be here for another 3 years, then I will go back to San Diego where [I've lived] all my life."

✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉ ✉

William Williams
E. 27171
California Men's Colony—East 6119
P.O. Box 8101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93409-0003

"I am a 28-year-old white male who likes sports, horseback riding, camping. I was raised on a small farm in Colorado."

➺ indicates a new listing.

BITS & PIECES

☞ **Reminder:** As part of the 25th Anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in June, **Raymond Luczak** is giving a reading from his anthology **Eyes of Desire: A Deaf Gay & Lesbian Reader** (Alyson Publications) on Saturday, June 18th, 1:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Brooklyn Public Library, it will take place at the Brooklyn Heights Branch Library at 280 Cadman Plaza West (at Tillary Street—not "Illary" as we printed it in our last issue). Subway stops within two blocks south of the library are Court Street/Brooklyn Heights Station (M, N, R) and Borough Hall Station (2, 3, 4). As with Luczak's other readings, it will be both voice- and sign-interpreted for all. For more information, call ☎(718) 336-4824 (TTY); ☎(718) 722-3367 (Voice), or ☎(718) 376-3577 (Voice).

☞ **Invitation:** Alyson Publications seeks great short fiction with erotic content for the third anthology in its best-selling series of Lesbian erotica. Submissions should be typed, double-spaced, and include an SASE. Deadline is September 15. Women of color are especially encouraged to respond. Stories or queries should be sent to: **Lucy Jane Bledsoe**, P.O. Box 10211, Berkeley, CA 94709-5211.

☞ **Lively scene:** The 1994 NTID/RIT Student Honors Show opened May 9 in the Switzer Gallery. It's an annual exhibit of the best work by students in NTID's School of Visual Communications, and represents projects by students who are preparing for careers in applied art, graphic design, photography, media production, industrial/interior design, fine arts, and crafts. The show runs through July 1, and is free and open to the public.

☞ **A slip of the "I":** The announcement about the appointment of Colin Allen as the NTD's Deaf Theatre Conference Director (April 1994 "News Briefs," p. 10) contained an inevitable mistake: **Camille Jeter** was described as "an *NTID* artistic director." (Why inevitable? We were worried that we'd someday make this mistake. We finally did.) Fortunately, most of our readers know the difference between "NTID" and "NTD." It *can* get confusing, as there are ties between NTID and NTD. NTD visits and performs at NTID on its annual tour. Several NTID alumni have joined the NTD over the years, and NTID students participate in its summer programs. Likewise, several NTD alumni have taught and performed at NTID. Jeter is, of course, one of the NTID's artistic directors. She hasn't been moonlighting in Rochester. Have we got that right? We apologize for the typographical error.

☞ **Heavy traffic:** Minnesota's Department of Public Safety (DPS) includes the State Patrol, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension,° the Gambling Enforcement Division, the Division of Emergency Management, the Office of State Fire Marshal, the Office of Pipeline Safety, Crime Victim Services, the Liquor Control Division, the Office of Drug Policy and Violence Prevention, Driver and Vehicle Services, the Office of Traffic Safety, and Capitol Security. DPS now has two TTY lines. People seeking general information about any DPS activity or materials can call ☎(612) 282-6555 (TTY) or ☎(612) 282-6565 (Voice). Those seeking information specific to Driver and Vehicle Services, such as drivers' licenses and vehicle registration, can call ☎(612) 297-2100 (TTY) or ☎(612) 296-6911 (Voice). The fax number is ☎(612) 297-7313. Address: 444 Cedar Street, Suite 100-E, St. Paul, MN 55101-2156.

apprehension: here, tracking down and catching (criminals).

☞ **Happier travels:** Hampton Inns, Inc., now has a toll-free TTY number: ☎1-800-451-HTDD (4833), to allow deaf and hard-of-hearing guests to make direct hotel reservations and inquire about accessibility in individual hotels. "Implementing this special service makes travel easier for our guests with hearing impairments," said **Ray Schultz**, President and CEO of Promus Hotels, which owns the Embassy Suites, Hampton Inns, and Homewood Suites. "Hampton Inn is committed to offering services and facilities that ensure all our guests have an enjoyable travel experience." Hampton Inn has been recognized by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association with the Distinguished Service Award "for offering services for the hearing-impaired" [*sic*].

☞ **Poster power:** Every year the American Library Association (ALA) produces at least 5 new posters of celebrities and classic characters, to promote the benefits of reading and making use of public libraries. For 1994, the ALA chose John Goodman, Michael Bolton, Spike Lee, Edward James Olmos, Elvis Presley—and **Marlee Matlin**, the first deaf celebrity ever honored. Celebrities donate their time for this public service and select their own books—a childhood favorite or one that has influenced their lives. Matlin's a **Judy Blume** fan. Her choice was **Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret**.

☞ **It's our move:** On May 1, MSM Productions, Ltd., began relocating from 85 Farragut Street (ZIP 14611) to 1095 Meigs Street, Rochester, New York 14620. Needless to say, this caused a major disruption in our schedule. Unfortunately, we were also forced to change our TTY and fax numbers. Meanwhile, our post-office address (Box 23380, Rochester, NY 14692-3380) will remain the same. Our new TTY number is ☎(716) 442-6370; our fax number is ❐(716) 442-6371. Sorry for any inconvenience this has caused.

YES, WE CAN!

MasterCard VISA

***DEAF LIFE* now accepts MasterCard and Visa.**
You can charge your subscription order to your card!
See order form on page 2.

Deaf Life wishes you a happy and safe Fourth of July celebration.

CLASSIFIED

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STAFF THERAPIST—DEAF SERVICES

Position available for M.A./M.S.W. in Social Work, Psychology, Counseling to provide diagnostic, clinical, and community services to deaf clients of a community mental-health center in northern Marion County. Prior experience in a mental-health setting desirable. Understanding and ability in manual communication (ASL, Minimal Language Skill, & Pidgin) as well as workable knowledge of deaf culture required. Salary range: $24,208 - $37,523. Excellent fringe benefits. Salary commensurate with experience. E.O.E.

Send résumé to:
Human Resources Department
Tri-County Center, Inc.
8945 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46260

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Now you can enjoy the "musically inspired ASL storytelling" of Sherry Hicks anytime. This new video will feature several musical selections presented in American Sign Language and interviews with Sherry.

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Make your check payable to UNI-QUE PRODUCTIONS.
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Allow 6 weeks for delivery

By Stuart Gopen

CABLE MOVIE CHANNEL SCORECARD

Percentage of captioned programming as indicated in the title index of **The Cable Guide**:

	FEB	MAR	APR
HOME BOX OFFICE (HBO)	55%	56%	73%
CINEMAX	45%	39%	37%
THE DISNEY CHANNEL	30%	34%	38%
SHOWTIME	35%	36%	41%
THE MOVIE CHANNEL	32%	36%	42%

Company Spotlight

PARAMOUNT HOME VIDEOis a company that has a terrific closed-captioning policy. For several years now, they have been captioning EVERYTHING they newly release on video, regardless of genre. Also, when their older titles need to be remastered, they caption them. Recently they acquired the rights to all of the "Charlie Brown" programs and you can be assured all will be captioned as they are gradually released on video.

They have also gone back and captioned the first 40 original ***Star Trek*** TV programs on video and intend to do the rest (there are 70 episodes) in the future. If all companies were like Paramount, we would be very happy viewers indeed. Please let them know how much you appreciate their efforts by writing a short note (one sentence will do) to:

✉✍ Eric Doctorow, President
Paramount Home Video
5555 Melrose Avenue
Hollywood, CA 90038-3197

Major captioned home-video releases

FEBRUARY

The Adventures of a Gnome Named Gnorm
The Age of Innocence
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The Ballad of Little Jo
Batman—Mask of the Phantasm
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A Bronx Tale
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Class of 1999 II: The Substitute
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Cool Runnings
The Cover Girl Murders
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Exosquad—Scorched Venus/Sabotage
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Flesh and Bone
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Heart of Darkness
The Inn of the Sixth Happiness
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It Happens Every Spring
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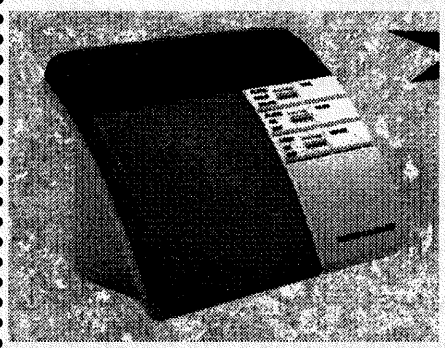

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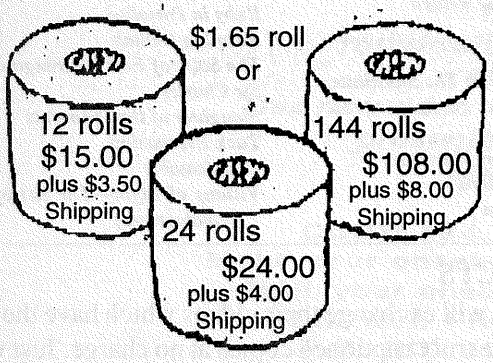

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